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REPORT
Women's World Cup

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1992 / I. JAN

Robson says: "It's the same in any walk of life, I suppose. You just look to do your job well and successfully and do as well as you can."

Results in Italy were, of course, little short of spectacular. No England team had gone as far in the World Cup since Sir Alf Ramsey's "wingless wonders" won outright in 1966.

Robson says: "During the World Cup finals in Italy we knew it was going well and we were in the middle of a good stream of form. We knew there were great possibilities. With every match we won confidence grew. We knew we had a good team and it would take a very good team to knock us out.

"What I didn"t realise at first was just what effect this was having back home — until Bryan Robson rang me between the matches against Belgium and Cameroon and then again after the Cameroon match.

"He said: "Boss, you just wouldn"t believe all the excitement and enthusiasm and the support from the people back home."

"You see, Bryan had never seen it before himself. He had been with England at the finals in 1982 in Spain and then again in 1986 in Mexico. He didn't realise just what a successful England team can mean to our people. He'd never had the chance to witness it. But he'd been injured and, sadly, we'd had to send him home.

"Of course, I would rather have had him with us, playing in Italy, but in one way I'm grateful that he was back in England and able to let us know the support we were getting.

"You see, when you're at the World Cup finals, you're cut off. You do your job the best way you know how, but you don't have any significant contact with the world outside. You don't know, and you don't stop to think, about how what you are doing is affecting other people. You're right in the middle; you have no way of knowing."

Robson never made any secret of the fact that he found it difficult adjusting to the England job after a life spent in club football when the bitterness of defeat can be wiped out by victory less than a week later; where the manager has the daily opportunity of indulging his love for the game by working alongside his players.

Robson says: "At the end of the day I had adjusted my life because I had got to know the job. But it takes time. I'm sure Graham Taylor has probably needed all his 18 months in the job to do that.

"It doesn"t matter what people say, you cannot fully understand the difference between being a club and a national boss until you've had to make that change. The job has a different pace. But you still enjoy winning just as much! And you still want the results just as much because you know it's not just the fans of one club, it's the whole country looking at you and what you're doing.

"Looking back I think I can say I adjusted; I got to grips with it. You've still got to win your matches — but when you do, it's a form of Utopia."

Travelled

But managers, of course, do not always win their matches. Robson's toughest moments, looking back, followed the disappointments of the 1988 European Championship finals in West Germany.

England travelled with such high hopes but lost first to the Irish Republic, then to Holland, then to the Soviet Union. Three games and three defeats spelled an early flight home.

By then, however, Robson was secure enough in his job not to be intimidated by the critical steam-roller bearing down on him.

He found the truth of the old soccer cliche that players win matches, but managers lose them.

Robson says: "That was when the criticism was at its worst. But by then I liked the England job so much that I said to the FA: "If you want me to stay, then I'll be delighted to carry on.

"I knew that we had a good basis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Training . . . Robson leads from the front with his PSV team.

WHAT'S ON

African Nations Cup

JANUARY 12 - JANUARY 17
African Nations Cup - first round matches (Ziquinchor/Dakar).

JANUARY 19 - JANUARY 20
African Nations Cup- quarter-finals (Dakar).

JANUARY 23
African nations Cup - semi-finals (Dakar).

JANUARY 25
African Nations Cup - third place play-off (Dakar).

JANUARY 26
African Nations Cup - final (Dakar).

WEMBLEY:

has been confirmed by UEFA as the venue for the Champions' Cup Final on May 20. It will be the first time Wembley has hosted the event since 1978, when Liverpool beat Club Brugge 1-0.

Previously Wembley was the Final venue in 1963, when Milan beat Benfica 2-1, in 1968, when Manchester United beat Benfica 4-1 after extra time, and in 1971, when Ajax beat Panathinaikos 2-0.

Lisbon is the conditional choice for the Cup-winners' Cup Final.

UEFA are awaiting a clarification on security aspects of the venue.

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We'd been unbeaten for around two years and the only goal we had conceeded in qualifying for the European finals was in our 4-1 victory away to Yugoslavia. I was keen to carry on because I honestly believed we could not only qualify for the World Cup in Italy but do well there."

The record books tell their own tale. England fought an extra-time draw with eventual world champions West Germany and lost only through the two tired penalties of Stuart Prearce and Chris Waddle.

Robson duly accepted all the accolades which suddenly swept his way and did, at least, taste a moment of glory at the Final in Rome when he accepted the FIFA Fair Play trophy on England's behalf.

Then it was away to Eindhoven, to start a new football life.

Robson says: "The European experience was something new for me. I had spent 13 years at Ipswich so club football was not new, in itself. The difference, and the attraction, was going back to that way of life but in a new country — becoming immersed in a new form of football, new places, new teams, new players.

"I had to work at learning a new industry. If I had gone back to club football in England I could have told you all about Everton, Sheffield Wednesday, Nottingham Forest — how they play, what their players can do and can't do; where they will test you; where they have weaknesses.

"But a major part of going to PSV was simply spending a huge amount of time going all over the place watching the other clubs — learning about Sparta, learning about Groningen.

"I had to give myself a crash course in Dutch football and work closely with my assistant, Hans Dorjee, who could tell me what I needed to know. And I had to take it all on board in the shortest possible time. Looking back, I think it took me until about my first Christmas in Holland to feel I had a sound grasp of the situation.

"But, as for working with the players, it's not that different from English football. The technical work and tactical work and physical work are much the same in England as in Holland."

But one aspect of the game is very different: the transfer market.

Robson says: "We could sign someone at any time if we wanted to. But circumstances mean the way of working here is different. Apart from Ajax, Feyenoord and us, gates at matches are not very big so there isn't the same sort of income to pay big transfers.

"Clubs look at their budget during the summer, spend what's available before the season starts and then set out their stall and say: "That's it. We've spent our money on these players and whatever happens will happen."

Dutch soccer is often dismissed by outsiders — and to their cost — as three clubs and nothing.

But Robson says: "Just think about the players they have produced over the past 25 years: Cruyff, Krol, Van Basten, Rijkaard, Gullit . . . you can go on and on. For a small country they've brought us some marvellous footballers.

"But, what they don't have is the strength in depth of the English game. The other week, for example, Peterborough beat Liverpool in the League Cup. A giant-killing in the English tradition. But that couldn't happen in Holland; the game does not possess the same depth."

That, of course, spells an inherent problem when PSV are called to raise their game in Europe — where Robson's PSV have conspicuously failed, beaten last season by Montpellier in the Cup-winners' Cup, this term by Anderlecht in the Champions' Cup.

Robson says: "It's games like these when you have to get at your players' pride to make sure they rise to the occasion. People may look at results and think it was simply a case that the players could not respond.

Frustrated

"In fact, if Anderlecht had had as many top men out injured as we had this autumn they wouldn't have beaten us. We've been without Romario, Vanenburg — who's had to have another operation on his knee — Ellerman, Kieft and Gerets sometimes all at the same time. No-one can afford to play top matches without players like that — particularly Romario, who's got a wonderful talent.

"Maybe he's said a few things which have been blown out of proportion. But, basically, he's been frustrated by his injuries. When he's fit he's marvellous to watch just in training, never mind a match. Romario's one of the best players I've ever worked with. I just wish we could get him fit!

"Overall, I've lost only four games since we came here. I think that's pretty good by anyone's standards. I think, among Europe's top clubs, there's only myself at PSV and Raddy Antic at Real Madrid who are still unbeaten in the league.

"That's why I was annoyed about your magazine's article in August saying I wasn't in charge when we beat Volendam to win the Championship last season. You work hard to achieve whatever success you do and then you read something like that.

"What happened was that Hans was looking a bit down in the last week. After all, he'd had four good years at PSV, which is a big club, and he was moving on. So I thought it would be a nice gesture if we involved him in our preparations with the players a bit more.

"That's all there was to it but someone got the wrong end of the stick and before you know where you are everyone's putting two and two together and coming up with five."

Dorjee, of course, left PSV for Feyenoord and Robson now has Frank Arnesen, former Denmark midfielder, as his assistant. Robson is also halfway through the last year of his original two-year contract. What happens next?

Robson says: "I came here with an open mind. Sometime in the new year the club and I will sit down and reach a mutual decision on what happens next. As of now, nothing has been decided.

"I have to say, I like it here in Holland and I like PSV. This is such a well-organised club with a terrific team when we've got over our injury problems.

"Romario hasn't played two consecutive full matches. He's such a fantastic player but we still haven't been able to get him 100 per cent. Vanenburg won't be fit until the end of January. Then there's been all the others — like Van Aerle. And we had to go without Popescu for four matches."

Those problems have done nothing to dent Robson's enjoyment in learning to deal with players and the media on a different intellectual level to England.

He says: "The players are all much more interested over here in tactics — how we play and how we change things. If you watch a lot of matches in Holland you see so many different styles.

"In England mostly everybody plays 4-4-2. There are a few exceptions, but not many. Tactically, the English game is comparatively predictable.

"But here you never know quite what you will come up against. One week the opposition play with a sweeper; next week it's a screener in front of the defence; the time after that you find you have to cope with a sweeper and a screener. Sometimes they'll come at you with one central striker; sometimes they won't play a striker at all but play with two men wide. Then, midway through a match you have to ask yourself what do you do with your two centre-backs who have no-one to mark?"

Surprise, surprise, the Press are different, too.

Robson says: "They are more like football reporters, rather than journalists looking for a headline. Here, they all think they're little coaches. It took me a while to adjust! But they do like to talk about the game and once I realised that — that they weren't looking for a quick quote — I started to relax."

Enjoyed

Listening to Robson leaves no doubts. As he says: "I like the football here. I like the club. I get on fabulously with Frank Arnesen; he's very enthusiastic about his job and I think I can teach even a man with his playing record things about the game, about management and so on.

"If, after January, I felt it was right and the club felt it was right then I would consider the future. After all, I'm 58 and how long do you go on? I'm not ready for retirement yet. But, on the other hand I don't have to worry about the future, either."

Does Robson regret not going into Europe earlier in his managerial career?

"No, no regrets on that score. Ipswich was a lovely time in my life and a quality way of life and I enjoyed every minute of my time there. I wouldn't have changed it.

"As for England, how much higher can you go than to manage your country?"

Waiting . . . Robson listens for the result of the Ajax match at the end of last season.

Sweet sixteen for England '96

By KEIR RADNEDGE

THE FINALS of the 1996 European Championship — for which England are front-runners in the bidding — are poised to open up to 16 teams.

The secret was leaked in mid-November when it became clear that European nations would face the most fixture-stressed qualification series in World Cup history.

UEFA general secretary Gerd Aigner has been under pressure from a number of member nations who complain that, hard as it is to reach the World Cup finals, it is harder still to reach the climactic phase of the European Championship.

Europe has 13 places (including holders Germany) in the finals of the 1994 World Cup yet only eight finalists in the current European Championship which reaches a conclusion in Sweden in July. Notable absentees from Sweden include Italy, Spain, Denmark and Belgium.

Italy and Denmark have now been put on standby in case the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have entered critical political collapse before the finals. But the immediate prospects are that both will take their places in some form or another.

As far as the European Championship is concerned, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia again hold a key role. The fragmentation of both states means UEFA, the European federation, may soon boast more than 40 members.

Leading . . . striker Dean Saunders (left), with nine UEFA Cup goals already, will lead Liverpool into the quarter-finals against Genoa.

Consideration

The three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — are already on their way back into the international fold after seizing independence from Moscow; Ukraine and Georgia and maybe Byelorussia will follow suit perhaps at the FIFA Congress later this year in Barcelona. Croatia and Slovenia also hope to join the football family in their own right.

It will then be impossible for UEFA to maintain the puny eight-team finals of the European Championship both on logistical and commercial grounds. Apart from that consideration, many European officials believe that the European Championship is a stronger, more worthy competitive event than the World Cup - with its impossible 24-team format.

This competitive imbalance is one reason why UEFA will consider doubling the size of the European finals rather than moving to a 12-team halfway house.

A leak about the 16-team finals broke just at the time when the English FA were publicly sketching out their staging plans for an eight-team finals in 1996. Only Portugal, Austria and Holland rival England and it is clear that the bigger the finals, the better England's chance of winning the vote later this year.

Any doubts about UEFA's intentions were dispelled at the recent executive committee meeting in New York. At that occasion a detailed expansion plan was unveiled by Hermann Neuberger, the German federation president who also heads up FIFA's own World Cup organising committee.

Neuberger says: "When the competition started, in 1958-60, we had just four finalists. In 1980, when we expanded to eight teams, UEFA had reached 32 member nations. Now we have 38 and I am sure it will be 42 in a year's time. A 16-strong tournament need last only three days longer. It is the obvious next step."

Insiders wonder whether the issue may not also prove a handy political lure for Neuberger should he choose to seek the FIFA presidency at some stage. Joao Havelange, having originally considered stepping down in 1994, now says he intends to carry on until 1998. But already a few contenders have started to throw their hats into the ring: Italian federation president Vincenzo Matarrese is one, Neuberger might be considered another.

As for the prospects of this year's championship, the Soviet Union appears more secure than Yugoslavia. The Ukraine federation has already published a statement of intent that its footballers - basically all those from Kiev - should compete under the Soviet flag at this year's finals.

Concluded

Yugoslavia's situation, however, has been complicated by the German-led European Commission's decision to recognise both Croatia and Slovenia from the middle of this month.

While the political situation hangs together, so will the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia — at least, as international football entities. This is due to be confirmed by a full UEFA meeting in Gothenburg on January 16, on the eve of the draw for the finals of the European Championship. Italy and Denmark, the respective group runners-up, will then be confirmed on finals standby.

Meanwhile, European qualifying group one is likely to be concluded in its unfinished state. The last match, between Albania and Spain, was scheduled for December 18. However it was postponed because of security fears after violent food riots in Tirana and other Albanian cities.

The under-21 match was also postponed and may be considered as cancelled. Alternatively, both matches could yet be awarded to Spain (with the relevant points) since it was the Albanians who could not guarantee the safety of either the visiting players or match officials.

The under-21 match was as academic a prospect as the senior game. Neither team could reach the quarter-finals.

The draw is: Denmark v Poland, Holland v Sweden, Germany v Scotland, Czechoslovakia v Italy (all to be played on or before March 31). Semi-finals: Denmark or Poland v Czechoslovakia or Italy; Germany or Scotland v Holland or Sweden (by April 30).

● UEFA will next season further tighten import restrictions on the three European club tournaments. Teams may line up only THREE foreigners (compared with four now) but they may also play two players who have spent five years with the club, including three at youth level.

● UEFA Cup quarter-final draw: Torino v BK 1903 Copenhagen, Sigma Olomouc v Real Madrid, Genoa v Liverpool, Ghent v Ajax.
First legs to be played on March 4, return legs on March 18.

Savicevic to break Milan's Dutch axis

ITALIAN league leaders Milan are close to clinching a £4million deal to sign Dejan Savicevic from Red Star Belgrade.

Savicevic, a left-sided attacking midfielder, is one of the key members of both the Red Star and Yugoslav national sides.

But whom will he replace in the Milan line-up?

The guessing games have already started, with the prospect of Milan's Dutch axis of Rijkaard-Gullit-Van Basten being broken up.

With only three "foreign" players allowed in the side, Savicevic's arrival could be the trigger which will send Van Basten to Spanish champions Barcelona, to link up with his old mentor Johan Cruyff.

World Cup Draw from Keir Radnedge

SO FAR, SO

Americans play it just right—now it's up to the rest of the world

UNITED STATES one, critics nil. That was the score after the draw for the World Cup qualifiers in Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theatre.

No brash, over-the-top showmanship of the type feared ever since the US were awarded the event.

Soccer's minority status, locally, probably helped keep the lid in place.

Two years ago Italy wheeled out Luciano Pavarotti and Sophia Loren.

The US equivalents might have been Frank Sinatra and Michelle Pfeiffer. Had this been baseball's World Series or the gridiron Super Bowl we might have seen Hollywood engulf the occasion.

But the World Cup is, as yet, no big deal. One glance at the morning papers proved that. *The New York Times* did manage a cumulative half a page of soccer — a college report, a draw preview and some European results. *The Daily News* was even more unimpressed by the event: providing its readers with three brief paragraphs.

The entertainment before the "action" was introduced by Barbara Eden (star of a series entitled I Dream of Jeanie which even some Americans were struggling to remember). Ms Eden is not the most internationally-renowned of America's screen stars. She certainly had FIFA officials biting their nails after introducing Franz "Breckbauer" and Joao "Havel-gang" at the $200-a-place gala dinner the previous evening.

This time Ms Eden got both right, though she had to take a deep breath between "Franz" and "Beckenbauer."

Provided

The entertainment was provided by a variety of ball-juggling Billy Mulroy, a remarkable team of tumblers from Chicago and two scantily-dressed hula-hoop girls from Sofia who revolutionised most reporters' impressions of Bulgaria.

Having disposed of the fun-and-games — you could not, by any stretch of the imagination, call it razamatazz — it was time for FIFA general-secretary Sepp Blatter to organise the draw itself.

He had various helpers, of course. US coach Bora Milutinovic and skipper Tony Meola popped the little globes for CONCACAF; Shannon Jennings and Michelle Akers-Stahl, of the American Women's World Cup-winners turned out for Oceania; the two Peles for Africa; Brazil's Pele alone for South America; and Beckenbauer for Europe.

We even had a guest appearance from Roger Moore, as a Unicef envoy, to woodenly accept a $1million-dollar cheque from Messrs Havelange and Hermann Neuberger as profits from the recent charity match in Germany.

But what mattered most — and which remains the one factor over which the American organisers have least control — was the football.

The North and Central American section will produce one certain qualifier and send one other hopeful into a complicated little arrangement with teams from Oceania and South America. No problems there.

Oceania, always FIFA's poor relations, must run-off a two-stage system to find a play-off challenger. Presumably it will be Australia or New Zealand. At least Israel, now falling within the European orbit, have been removed from the Oceania section.

Asia was a complex business. The political need to keep Iraq away from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates could well prove to their benefit.

Only China present an obvious first round qualification threat in Group A and the second round will also, one assumes, have to be weighted politically.

Africa is, from a neutral standpoint, perhaps the most intriguing section of the 1994 World Cup.

African representation at the finals has been stepped up from two to three places. The Africans, in their increasingly irritating way, are none too happy. Having achieved three places, they still intend pushing for more.

Let's see what they produce on the pitch in 1994. Does Africa possess real strength in depth? Their cause will not be helped by the eliminatory collisions of Algeria and Ghana in Group A and of Morocco and Tunisia in Group F.

Clarified

The respective strengths of the nine African first-round groups will be clarified by evidence from the forthcoming African Nations' finals in Senegal.

Europe will not receive the finals representation the region's financial or traditional strength deserves. For that, Europe's football politicians have only themselves to blame.

Only one half of the nations at the finals will have qualified from Europe (Germany, a 13th finalist, go through directly as title-holders). Yet all the top players from South America gravitate to Europe; and the top (and many far-from-top) Africans have followed suit.

Europe has, if anything, proved victim of its own success. The European domestic and club competitions have provided a degree course for graduates without loyalty.

Still, European nations who present the sort of nonsense football we saw from Austria in 1990 and from Bulgaria in 1986 are asking for trouble.

Any national managers upset by the top-heavy fixtures programme awaiting them can throw the blame on those nations whose cowardly and unambitious football has let the continent down in previous finals.

In Group 1 Italy are clear favourites, with any one of Scotland, Portugal and Switzerland going with them.

England and Holland are in a different class in Group 2. But Spain, the Irish Republic and Denmark are well-balanced in Group 3 — and Northern Ireland could well prove not only awkward opponents but sharp enough to take advantage of the points the top three steal from each other.

Group 4 is wide open as is Group 5. After all, what state will the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia be in when qualifying begins for them next autumn?

The Soviet Union might then be reduced to the rump of Russia when the loss of Ukraine's independence-seeking footballers could prove catastrophic.

This group provides my outsider tip: don't write off Greece. Dimitris Saravakos is a highly-talented attacker whose goals might just make the difference when all the points and the goal difference ratios are totted up.

Group 6 should not present too many problems for Michel Platini's France — even though they have bitter memories of World Cup confrontation with Bulgaria. Austria, on their recent form, are no threat to anybody. Sweden's qualifying prospects rest heavily on their displays as hosts in the European Championship finals next June.

Poor results will undermine their World Cup confidence — and the beneficiaries, unhappily recalling their past World Cups, could be Bulgaria.

Still, after that hula-hoop exhibition in the Paramount Theatre, we may dream that Bulgarian football, too, has a revolutionary new image to present.

As ever, with the World Cup, we live in hope.

The world in their hands . . . Beckenbauer and Blatter during the draw.

in New York GOOD!

Taylor...mounting problems.

Hidden pressure on England

ENGLAND, if they qualify for the finals of the World Cup, will find that initial success backfiring on them.

The reasons are simple — and they also mean that Graham Taylor will be the busiest England manager of all time.

Franz Beckenbauer's fishing in the World Cup goldfish bowls is not to be blamed.

England entered the draw as one of Europe's six top seeds. But the restrictions of qualification and the expansion of European football meant Taylor already feared the worst.

Europe has 13 teams at the finals but that includes Germany, who qualify automatically as holders.

That left a record 37 teams to be split into six groups — five groups of six nations and one group of seven.

Taylor must, at least, have been relieved that England are in a six-team group.

Acknowledged

But he immediately acknowledged the problems even that will pose.

He said: "Since we're in the finals of the European Championship we can't start our qualifying programme until next season. That means we have 10 qualifying matches to play in 14 months — and in that time we have, at the moment, only nine international dates.

"The amount of football we expect of our players means we may have to play at least one of our qualifying matches in the summer of 1993. That would mean putting back the dates we had set aside to come and play in the United States. That then means the players will hardly have much of a break before their clubs will be expecting them back for pre-season training.

"Still, it's no use wasting time on being sorry for ourselves. That's not my way. The draw has been made and we have to get on with it."

What Taylor did not point out is that his players will have had a damaging three years non-stop football on the way to USA '94.

His major regret is that one of the precepts for the Premier League — a reduction of club fixtures — has already been thrown out of the window.

Even before leaving for New York he said: "When they talked first about the formation of the Premier League they were talking about having Saturdays free before any competitive match. Obviously we won't get all those free Saturdays we need.

"We'll be back to where we were — playing internationals on a Wednesday with the England manager waiting until the Sunday before the game to see if he has a full selection available or not.

"We are very club-orientated but we also expect the national team to produce performances at the drop of a hat.

"The club managers have been as co-operative as possible for me. But we are playing so much football that more and more players are suffering from injuries. It's a vicious circle: the quality players are the ones playing the most games, because of their success, and they are then the most at risk."

England's followers were disappointed that Poland and Turkey will again be in opposition, after the European Championship meetings.

But Taylor said: "I'd rather look at it from their point of view: they will be even more unhappy about having to play England again.

Accepted

"San Marino are very excited about the chance to upset us. But it's Norway whom I think we might all underestimate. They've just drawn with Italy, they're strong and well-organised. If we, or Holland, do not take them seriously they can do a lot of damage."

Taylor did not need to dwell long on Holland. They are, after all, the "accepted" other obvious qualifiers.

Nothing so obvious about Group 1 in which Scotland face Italy, Portugal, Switzerland (again), Malta and Estonia.

Coach Andy Roxburgh permitted himself a wry smile in considering his forthcoming duels with Arrigo Sacchi, Italy's new manager. Roxburgh said: "I met him first on a coaching course. I was the tutor and he was one of my pupils. He keeps reminding me of it."

Scotland respect Switzerland's improvement and Roxburgh knows well that Portugal manager Carlos Queiroz is quickly bringing through the youngsters who have won the last two World Youth Cups.

The British and Irish interest is concentrated on the first four European groups.

The two Irelands face up in Group 3 where Spain and Denmark are the greatest dangers and Albania, Lithuania and Latvia the whipping boys.

In a sense Wales emerged with the "best" draw. In the European qualifiers they upset Belgium and are well capable of not only repeating the trick but putting similar skids under Czechoslovakia and Romania.

Wales have not qualified for the finals since 1958, when they reached Sweden as winners of a lucky losers play-off.

This time Wales can dream seriously of getting to the finals on merit. After their rugby team's disastrous world cup, the soccer men may work glorious mischief, indeed!

THE DRAW

HOSTS: United States.
HOLDERS: Germany.

EUROPE
38 entries (39 members: Liechtenstein withdrew on the eve of the draw)
GROUP 1: Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malta, Estonia.
GROUP 2: England, Holland, Poland, Norway, Turkey, San Marino.
GROUP 3: Spain, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia.
GROUP 4: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Wales, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.
GROUP 5: Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg.
GROUP 6: France, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel.
● Two teams qualify for the finals from each group. Matches to be played between March 1, 1992 and November 17, 1993.

AFRICA
37 entries (48 members)
Preliminary round:
Togo v Sao Tome & Principe.

First round
GROUP A: Algeria, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi.
GROUP B: Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland.
GROUP C: Egypt, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Angola.
GROUP D: Nigeria, Congo, Libya, Togo or Sao Tome & Principe.
GROUP E: Ivory Coast, Sudan, Niger, Botswana.
GROUP F: Morocco, Tunisia, Malawi, Ethiopia.
GROUP G: Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique, Mauritania.
GROUP H: Zambia, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Tanzania.
GROUP I: Kenya, Guinea, Mali, Gambia.
● Winners of each group qualify for the second round, which will comprise three mini-leagues of three teams each with the winners qualifying for the finals.

ASIA
29 entries (36 members)

First round
GROUP A: China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan.
GROUP B: Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, Myanmar (formerly Burma).
GROUP C: North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia.
GROUP D: South Korea, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Lebanon, India.
GROUP E: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Macao.
GROUP F: United Arab Emirates, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.
● Group members to decide whether to play in mini-league or in a centralised mini-tournament in one country. The six group winners qualify for the second round, to be played as one home-away mini-league. Winners and runners-up will qualify for the finals. First round matches to be played between January 1, 1993 and June 31, 1993; second round to be played between August 1, 1993, and October 31, 1993.

CONCACAF (North/Central America)
23 entries (27 members)

Pre-preliminary round
CARIBBEAN REGION NORTH: St Lucia v St Vincent, Dominican Republic v Puerto Rico.

Preliminary round
CARIBBEAN REGION NORTH: Bermuda v Haiti, Dominican Republic or Puerto Rico v Jamaica, St Lucia or St Vincent v Cuba.

CARIBBEAN REGION SOUTH: Netherlands Antilles v Antigua, Guyana v Surinam, Barbados v Trinidad & Tobago.

First round
CENTRAL REGION: Guatemala v Honduras, Panama v Costa Rica, Nicaragua v El Salvador.
CARIBBEAN REGION: Guyana or Surinam v St Lucia/St Vincent or Cuba, Bermuda or Haiti v Netherlands Antilles or Antigua, Barbados or Trinidad & Tobago v Dominican Republic/Puerto Rico or Jamaica.

Second round
GROUP A: Mexico and three first round qualifiers.
GROUP B: Canada and three first round qualifiers.

Third round

● Winners of Group A play home-and-away against the winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for the finals. Runners-up play the Oceania winners for the right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.
Pre-preliminary matches to be played between March 1, 1992 and March 31, 1992; preliminary round between April 1, 1992 and May 31, 1992; first round (central) between April 1, 1992 and July 31, 1992; first round (Caribbean) between June 1, 1992 and July 31, 1992; second round between August 1, 1992 and December 31, 1992; third round between January 1, 1993 and May 31, 1993; play- off against Oceania winners between August 1, 1993 and September 30, 1993; if necessary CONCACAF/Oceania winners v South America Group A runners-up between October 1, 1993 and November 17, 1993.

OCEANIA
7 entries (8 members)

First round
GROUP 1: Australia, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands.
GROUP 2: New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Vanuatu.
● The two group winners will play home and away. The winners qualify to meet the CONCACAF runners-up and, if successful, South America Group A runners-up. Oceania first round matches to be played between March 1, 1992 and December 31, 1992. Second round matches to be played between January 1, 1993, and May 31, 1993. Oceania/CONCACAF play-offs to be settled between August 1, 1993, and September 30, 1993; the Oceania/CONCACAF winners to play South America Group A runners-up between October 1, 1993, and November 17, 1993.

SOUTH AMERICA
9 entries (10 members; Chile suspended)

GROUP A: Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.
GROUP B: Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.
● The winners of Group A and the winners and runners-up of Group B qualify for the finals; the runners-up from Group A play the winners of the Oceania/CONCACAF play-off for a place in the finals. Group A to be played between March 1, 1992, and September 30, 1993; Group B to be played between March 1, 1992, and November 17, 1993. Play-off between Group A runners-up and Oceania/CONCACAF nation to take place between October 1, 1993 and November 17, 1993.

America fires first shots but Europe must share the fight ahead

From KEIR RADNEDGE in New York

NEW YORK, according to one television news bulletin, was a "war zone" on the day of the World Cup draw.

Had Michel Platini and Tommy Svensson come to blows over fixture dates? Had Sepp Blatter smashed all his goldfish bowls? Had El Salvador and Honduras been paired up — or Iraq and Kuwait?

Not at all. The "war zone" label was cast out emotively into the air waves after a gangster scrap somewhere in the Big Apple. Television considered the World Cup draw not worthy of mention. Not a word. Not a sound bite. Not a film clip. Silence reigned.

So was the draw, the first international PR exercise of USA '94, a failure? By no means. Most significanctly it will have provided prescient outsiders with a lesson on how they should bring their toy into the most vibrant playpen in the world.

Take the overall New York experience, starting at the airport's immigration desk.

Why are you here? "For the soccer World Cup meeting."

Anywhere else, a positive response would be almost guaranteed. In Mexico or Madrid, Belgium or Buenos Aires. Here it elicited not a flicker. Not a twitch of an eyebrow; not a flicker of the chin.

The flight had been with American Airlines. Official sponsors; official carrier. No logos or slogans on board, yet. But these are early days; corporate America has to get the Olympic Games through its system first.

Next autumn, when Europe's qualifying marathon gets under way, those planes on the transatlantic routes will fly the company's World Cup commitment in style and pride.

If the medium is the message then the message can also benefit the medium. America appreciates that, but does soccer elsewhere? Or does it take its pre-eminence for granted? Outside the Plaza Hotel flags of all nations fluttered atop a glittering Christmas forest of white lights.

Businessman Donald Trump and child film star Macauley Culkin flicked the switch. More than one soccer senor saw the display as homage to FIFA and the World Cup.

No doubt he remains in blissful ignorance. He is not the only one.

In truth, the flags were illuminated as a gesture to the United Nations. The World Cup had nothing to do with it.

The World Cup Mobile, an enormous truck, did bring the trophy itself to a display at Macy's store. Then there was the World Cup traffic jam provoked by a $200-a-head Gala Dinner at the Hilton.

Mercifully, for soccer's image, the cause of acute motoring mayhem was not obviously apparent.

Traffic jams are a fact of life. But we noticed other snags which can, and should, be ironed out.

Why, for example, did Joao Havelange make all his speeches in French? FIFA's president may, understandably, be reluctant to launch into English at this late stage of his tenure. But he speaks Spanish, and many more people in New York City and among the soccer culture here speak Spanish than French.

Bringing the World Cup to the US is a two-way exercise. Responsibility rests as much with the world game as it does with the American organisers.

The world outside — and that means FIFA, that means the world's coaches and players — must think long and hard about their approach to USA '94.

American officials, from USSF president Alan Rothenberg down, have promised the "greatest World Cup ever." That's rhetoric, promotional hype: the quality of a World Cup depends ultimately and exclusively on the soccer.

Looking back dispassionately the finest World Cup was Mexico in 1970 because of Brazil. How was the travel, the hotels, the telephones? It doesn't matter.

Alan Rothenberg (left) and Pele with the World Cup in New York.

Cale pushed shake-up at

Rothenberg, Cale and LeTellier (l to r) before the shake-up.

THE news was sensational, front-page stuff. But it was never announced. USA '94 tried to keep it as quiet as possible, to pass it off as simply a few routine title changes among the top brass.

Not so. What had happened was that the No. 1 guy, Mr World Cup, had been fired. Chuck Cale, hand-picked by US federation president Alan Rothenberg to run the World Cup, was out. He had been in office a little over a year.

A biter blow for Rothenberg, who had to take away from his friend the titles of chief executive officer and co-chairman of USA '94. Rothenberg becomes the CEO, while Cale has been given a new position, that of vice-chairman. But it is a title without any power — "special projects" is about all that Cale can expect to be involved in.

In a parallel change, Rothenberg also claimed another title, that of president, formerly held by Scott LeTellier. He keeps his title of chief operating officer, and becomes the World Cup's managing director.

The changes were hidden away in an internal memo to the World Cup board of directors. When asked to comment, Rothenberg said: "The changes were made after an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses. We had people in the wrong positions and a lot of time was being wasted on internal disputes.

"That's why I'm taking all these positions — to show everyone this is where the buck stops. We've cleared up areas of confusion, and the whole World Cup effort will be enhanced."

Avoided

This bland official statement carefully avoided either stating or denying the truth of the matter.

The reason for the sudden upheaval also was left unsaid, and why it occurred on the eve of the World Cup draw when the world's soccer press was gathered in New York, looking for stories on how the World Cup was coming along.

The pressure for change came, above all, from FIFA, demonstrating once again that they will do whatever they think necessary to ensure their prize jewel, the World Cup, is run the way they want. Cale, evidently, did not make much of an impression. As one observed put it: "Chuck never meshed with the FIFA people."

Both FIFA and their marketing arm, ISL had been growing increasingly impatient and bewildered that so little was being done under Cale, feeling that there was no leadership. In the US, Cale was gaining the

Looking back less than two years and Italia '90 appears more and more of a black hole in the game as subjective memories fade into the shadows of some awfully second-class soccer.

Just before the draw I told a BBC Radio interviewer precisely this.

The United States will organise the World Cup finals as they have never been organised. America has that talent.

But what the Americans cannot control is the quality of the product and the way the rest of the game supports them in marketing it.

Concurred

Remember, one of the prime reasons the US pitched for the finals — and one of the prime reasons FIFA concurred — was to develop and promote the domestic game. FIFA took that unique prospect on board. Responsibility for seeing it through rests not only with the local organisers but with the worldwide football family.

When the 23 other finalists eventually fly in they should not shut themselves away in remote training camps behind impenetrable security systems. The American public will not be impressed.

When the 23 other finalists fly in they should not think that a chaperoned half-hour press briefing once every two days is generosity personified. The American media will not be impressed.

When the 23 other finalists go out to play they should not think that avoiding defeat is the be-all and end-all. American sport will not be impressed.

For this is the future.

Europe, the commercial and competitive heart of the game, is only slowly coming to terms with reality: society is burgeoning with counter-attractions competing for its audience.

Many of the European nations do not appear to know how to fight for attention; how to EARN attention.

Learned

But that is what they must do in the United States. If the World Cup can earn that attention, Europe may go home in July, 1994, having learned a lifeline lesson not only in promotion but in survival.

Soccer does not possess a divine right to dominate the sports pages. Those acres of free advertising are under increasing pressure. Other sports want a share of the cake. Soccer may be omnipotent in most of the world for now but there are no guarantees about the future.

Survival, after all, is visited upon the fittest. How fit is the world of soccer? USA '94 might just tell us.

Perhaps, after all, the World Cup draw was a war zone: the first shots in a worldwide fight which the sport must carry through into the next century.

sideways in the top

From PAUL GARDNER in New York

reputation of a man who was always receptive to ideas, who encouraged people to start things — then turned quickly to something else.

As for the spending of precious funds, "Oh, just bill it to World Cup '94!" became a rather sour joke among federation people when they had to come up with cash for their own projects.

Cale lost a lot of credibility in January this year with the extraordinary appointment of his friend Leo Levine (who cheerfully admitted that he knew nothing about soccer) to the key position of vice-president in charge of communications. He lasted six months before he was "let go."

During that time, his job seemed to consist of writing press releases which made a point of identifying Cale, rather than Rothenberg, as the moving force behind World Cup '94.

FIFA's dissatisfaction with Cale reached boiling point during the stadia inspection tour in October and November. Top FIFA people talked openly and disparagingly about Cale's ability, and spoke of the need for a change.

Suffered

The change has now been made. Cale might have sensed what was coming, for two of his predecessors had suffered the same fate in the past three years. The original World Cup czar was Paul Stiehl, appointed in 1988 by then USSF president Werner Fricker. In February 1989, Fricker bundled Stiehl out, and replaced him with LeTellier.

When Fricker, in turn, was ousted by Rothenberg, LeTellier's days appeared numbered, and in October 1990 Cale took over.

The common factor here is a four-letter word — FIFA. FIFA did not like Paul Stiehl, so he had to go. Fricker, hard-headed and difficult to deal with, lasted two years before he exhausted FIFA's patience. FIFA started pulling the strings to make sure that Fricker would not be re-elected to the USSF presidency in 1990.

Ironically, FIFA were helped in this aim by Stiehl, who also had his eyes on the presidency, and seemed to think that he had FIFA's backing.

Stiehl crashed down to reality on the day of the election, when he received an early-morning telephone call from FIFA's Guido Tognoni, asking him to step down in favour of Rothenberg, whom FIFA (with the help of Cale, another irony) had by this time convinced to run against Fricker.

After Rothenberg's stunning victory over Fricker, Cale was moved in, and it looked almost certain that LeTellier would be sent packing. But LeTellier survived — probably because FIFA liked him — and the latest shake-up suggests he is making a comeback. The new reality is that, after Rothenberg, the two most powerful figures now are LeTellier and Charlie Kenny, the chief administrative officer.

Kenny is a money man, brought in to establish some sort of fiscal order. His skills are much admired by Rothenberg and probably more important — the guys over in Switzerland, at FIFA and ISL, seem to have taken to him.

LeTellier has his critics; he is held to be too smitten with detail, taking too much time using his formidably bright lawyer's mind on t-crossing and i-crossing. But he is, by far, the most experienced of the USA '94 officers, with an impressive grasp of the intricacies of World Cup politics and negotiations.

Both LeTellier and Kenny are low-key types, behind-the-scenes workers, happy to leave the spotlight to someone else.

That someone else is, of course, Rothenberg. He will be the one who gets his name in the press, who appears on TV, whose face will become associated here with the 1994 World Cup — which is not a bad thing.

Rothenberg has a winning smile, a great deal of charm, and is at ease speaking.

He has shown himself a prodigious worker, a rapid learner, who deals with realities rather than fantasies. His soccer knowledge is limited, and he does pretend otherwise.

Involved

Indeed, World Cup '94 would greatly benefit if Rothenberg were more involved, but there is a problem here. Rothenberg insists he can handle his new World Cup workload while continuing with his law firm. "I'll make the time," he told me. "I'll do it, or I'll hire help."

But the big problem is a matter of image: not Rothenberg's, but the World Cup's.

Again, we run into the peculiarities of putting on the tournament in the States.

In Italy or England or Brazil, everyone already knows about the World Cup; the event itself does not have to be explained.

But this is not true in the US, where one of the first priorities is to explain what the World Cup is all about and to convince the American public it is every bit as big and important as the Olympic Games.

Will that campaign be helped if people can ask: How big can the World Cup be when you've got this guy running it part-time out of his law office?

The question is unfair to Rothenberg, of course, but is not a stupid question. Soccer's image here needs all the help it can get.

European Championship Preview

SWEDEN'S SMALL WONDER

By TIM MANSEL

Gothenburg's Ullevi Stadium.

"SMALL is beautiful" — it's on this theme that the Swedish organisers are preparing for the European Championship finals in June.

Certainly Euro '92 promises to be a cosy affair. Only one of the four stadiums where the tournament will be staged has a capacity of more than 30,000, while the smallest, in Norrkoping, holds a little less than 19,000.

Two of the eight countries competing can start making hotel and travel arrangements even before the draw in Gothenburg on January 17. Sweden, the hosts, will play all their group games at Rasunda Stadium in the Stockholm suburb of Solna. Holland, as reigning European champions, will be based in Gothenburg for the first stage of the tournament.

Travel arrangements for the other six nations — England, France Germany, Scotland, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia — will be somewhat more complicated. Those drawn n Sweden's group will play one game in Stockholm and the other two in Malmo in the south, while Holland's opponents will play once in Gothenburg and twice in Norrkoping, south of Stockholm.

The tournament opens in Stockholm on June 10 with Sweden's first game, and the last of the 12 group games will be in Norrkoping and Gothenburg on June 18. The semi-finals are planned for Stockholm on June 21, and Gothenburg on June 22, with the final, four days later, also at Gothenburg's Ullevi stadium.

Rasunda, where AIK of Stockholm play their home games, had, until recently, a capacity of over 40,000. But it's being made all-seater in time for Euro '92, which will reduce the capacity to just under 28,000. The scene of the 1958 World Cup final, where the 17-year-old Pele helped Brazil defeat Sweden 5-2, Rasunda is a compact English-style stadium where the crowd is close to the action on all four sides of the ground — a ground dominated by the glass tower in one corner.

Separated

36,000 will be able to watch Holland's opening game at Ullevi, a ground more in the European tradition with it's track separating the pitch from the stands. It's a ground with fond memories for a number of Scots — for it's where Aberdeen won the 1983 Cup-winners' Cup by beating Real Madrid.

Ullevi, the home of a number of clubs, including Sweden's reigning champions, IFK Gothenburg, also hosted the 1990 Cup-winners' Cup final, when Sampdoria beat Anderlecht.

Malmo, a short ferry-ride across the Oresund from Copenhagen, boasts Sweden's only fully professional football club, Malmo FF.

Malmo Stadium is on similar lines to Ullevi, with its island of green separated from the stands by a bright red running track. 26,800 will be able to watch group games there.

Norrkoping's Idrottsparken would not look out of place in the English Third Division. When reconstruction work there is complete the capacity will have been reduced to 18,770. A small stadium in a small town, which may host games between the giants of European soccer, Germany, France or England.

Sune Sandstrom, in charge of organising the policing of Euro '92, admits there could well be more fans than tickets, and says the police are making arrangements to deal with the overflow.

"We're expecting a lot of Germans, for instance, because they are so close to Sweden. So we're looking into the possibility of setting up video screens so people will be able to watch the games outside the arenas," he said.

Sandstrom is himself a football fan and is pleased the likes of England, Holland and Germany have qualified, despite the crowd control problems that may entail.

Hooliganism is a minor problem in Sweden itself, although there was trouble after derby games in Stockholm last season.

"A problem we may have to face is Swedish trouble-makers trying to fight visiting supporters," said Sandstrom.

"We have to count on German, Dutch and English trouble-makers as well. But I'm sure our preparations in co-operation with foreign police forces will help."

Hosting the championship has enabled Sweden to appear in the final stages for the first time ever.

They'll be under some pressure to do well, not only because they'll be at home, but also because of the disappointment of the World Cup in Italy.

Since Tommy Svensson took over as manager at the beginning of 1991 the Swedes have played nine games, winning four, drawing three and losing two, scoring 23 goals in the process and conceding 16. They're good going forward, but no so impressive at the back, and one feels they're unlikely to be crowned European Champions next June.

But they'll play football that's good to watch. Small is also beautiful on the pitch in Sweden, where Anders Limpar and Tomas Brolin are the two most accomplished players in the side. Limpar is, on his day, unstoppable, and Brolin a supreme goal-poacher.

Euro '92 will provide them with the stage to prove they're as good as the likes of Matthaus, Papin, Savicevic, Lineker and Van Basten.

PIPE DREAM

Piontek longs for a place in England

BY JIM HOLDEN

Piontek (centre) with England manager Taylor (right) and his assistant Lawrie McMenemy.

SEPP PIONTEK puffed contentedly on his pipe and revealed his dream to work in England.

"If you ask any top continental coach, his true answer would be that it would be the greatest challenge of his life to work there," he says.

"English players are the best in the world to work with in terms of attitude and spirit, enthusiasm and commitment. They always play positively, and that is something which doesn't always happen in other countries.

"In England you never get those awful times in a match when the ball is passed around at the back without purpose for minutes on end.

"The second reason is that I would try to improve the tactics, technique and creativity of their players. I would go straight on to the coaching field to do that. I believe a really great team could be created.

"You could see the problems when Turkey played at Wembley. We packed the midfield and the English players did not know how to respond, to change their pattern. All they had to do was play a sweeper — and the spare man would have given us so many problems."

Piontek was once linked with Spurs in the 1980s but apart from that there has not been a sniff of interest in him, even though he is one of Europe's most respected coaches, who dazzled the soccer world with the 3-5-2 system using fast-raiding wing-backs.

He added: "It is difficult for English clubs to make the change, and now it will perhaps be harder after what happened to Jozef Venglos at Aston Villa. But it would be worth it for an English team.

"There would have to be a situation where there was an English general manager who did the transfers and policy, while the foreign coach got on with coaching. A foreign 'manager' could not possibly have enough knowledge of the English game to do everything the British manager does.

"Look at Ron Atkinson at Villa. He immediately bought seven or eight new players to make it 'his' team. Venglos could not do that, however much he might have wanted to.

"If an English club wanted me to come I would definitely agree if I was free contractually. But for the moment my aim is to help Turkey qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

"As the game at Wembley in October showed, there are some fine young players developing, and they are adapting well to the system I want them to play.

"When I first went to Turkey they were so unrealistic. They thought we would immediately win matches 3-0 against strong sides like England.

"They are beginning to learn."

So is 51-year-old Piontek, who is unlikely to make many more outrageous promises like vowing to swim the Bosphorous if Turkey won at Wembley. "That was a bit close for comfort," he joked.

He is genuinely delighted that his methods are finally succeeding. "Of course, results are important. But in the long term it is how well you are playing that matters, because the results come from that.

"In the past Turkish players have been a bit lazy. They do well in one game, but think they don't need to bother next time. I can see more consistency coming. And every First Division team now plays on grass pitches, that helps.

"All Turkey need now is a top-class striker and they can have some genuine ambition. If only we had Gary Lineker or Preben Elkjaer. It was the same when we played in Poland earlier this year.

"We dominated the game for 75 minutes but couldn't score, then lost to a couple of late goals."

Talk of Elkjaer inevitably brings the conversation round to the great Danish side Piontek built in the mid-1980s, who excited so many people with dashing style and no fear of failure.

Piontek says: "Elkjaer was one of the two best players I worked with.

He could change a game by himself, so strong and quick and so good at scoring. The other was Morten Olsen, who led the team on the pitch, and played as a real libero.

"There were some wonderful matches, too. The 6-1 defeat of Uruguay in the 1986 World Cup finals was a fantasy match.

"But perhaps the greatest occasion was in the summer of 1985 when Denmark beat the Soviet Union 4-2 in Copenhagen. It was a national holiday, a bright sunny day, a full crowd of 'Roligans', and two teams who tried to score more goals than the other side.

"Elkjaer scored twice and the Soviets came back with a goal. Then young Michael Laudrup scored, running from inside his own half. We finished 4-2 winners and qualified for the World Cup."

Michael Laudrup . . . questionable attitude.

Olsen . . . one of the very best.

Diplomatic

Piontek is too diplomatic to talk about the problems facing his successor in that job, Richard Moller Nielsen. But his honesty allows him to make one point: "Michael Laudrup, what a gifted player. You will never see a better technique.

"He can do anything with a ball. He's like a child playing. But you have to wonder whether he has the heart for the job.

"Sometimes you have to be tough in football as well as beautiful."

Piontek is pleased by the emergence of so many coaches and managers from that generation of dynamite Danes. Morten Olsen led Brondby to the UEFA Cup semi-final last season, Soren Lerby has taken over at Bayern Munich and Frank Arnesen is assistant to Bobby Robson at PSV Eindhoven.

"It makes me very proud to see them all doing so well," he says. I hope I have been an influence for the good. And there will be some others too, like Ivan Nielsen, who is still playing with B1903."

So Piontek put away his pipe, still hoping his greatest soccer ambition will one day be fulfilled.

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Action from Tokyo as Colo Colo's M[illegible]za (left) battles it out with Red Star's [illegible]vic.

Colo Colo REBEL WARRIORS

Chief's successors do Chile proud

BY ERIC WEIL

COLO COLO are now preparing to defend the Libertadores Cup, which they won last year — the first Chilean club to do so in the tournament's 31-year history.

Their success was perhaps unexpected but it was certainly popular in their home country, where Colo Colo are the most successful club, winning the championship 17 times in little more than half a century.

They also have taken part in the Libertadores Cup, for national title-winners in South America, 14 times, but until this year their best performance was in 1973, when they lost to Independiente of Argentina 2-1 in a replay after drawn home and away legs.

This year they left little doubt about their superiorority, winning all their seven home matches and drawing five and losing only two away.

This made them unbeaten winners of their first round group by the unusually wide margin of three points, 22-8 in goals, although it was hardly necessary as the top three of each four-team group qualified for the second round, after which the competition followed the customary knock-out system.

The surprise in this group was the elimination of last year's finalists, Barcelona of Ecuador.

Colo Colo's closest call came in the second round against Peru's Universitario de Deportes. They had to thank goalkeeper Moron for a 0-0 draw in the away leg, then had to fight hard to win 2-1 at home with a penalty from Ruben Espinosa five minutes from the end, when their rivals had only ten men.

The quarter-finals were easy. A 4-0 home win over Uruguay's Nacional allowed Colo Colo to take it easy in the away leg and they lost 2-0, their first defeat in the tournament.

Then came a 1-0 semi-final away defeat by Boca Juniors of Argentina, who were favourites to win the trophy, but the Chileans wiped them out by winning 3-1 at home.

The decisive goal led to Boca protests and crowd trouble. Several Boca players were bitten by police dogs, another was pushed into the moat surrounding the field, and another punched a policeman and had his pants torn off by a dog.

Boca coach Washington Tabarez was hit with a camera by a "photographer" and, with blood steaming down his face, wrenched it from the man and hit him, sending him to hospital.

The remaining seven minutes were eventually played, but several Santiago newspapers, whose photographers and reporters were supposed to have been injured by Argentine players, sued Boca and the squad were not allowed to leave until two days later, when the case was settled out of court.

The final, against holders Olimpia, was, as often happens, an anti-climax. There seemed to be little to choose between the rivals in a tough match in Asuncion which finished 0-0.

In Santiago, two reserves scored Colo Colo's goals in their deserved 3-0 win over Olimpia, Perez claiming two early on and Herrera (whose father had been in the Colo Colo side who lost the 1973 Libertadores Cup Final) adding his score after going on as a substitute.

Olimpia had to play for almost an hour with only ten men after key striker Gabriel Gonzales had been sent off.

Colo Colo, a comparatively young club, formed in 1925, took their name from Colo Colo, the legendary rebel Indian chieftain who looms large in Chilean history and who, the club founders thought, best personified their ideals.

Two brothers, David and Alberto Arellano, excellent players with one of Chile's oldest clubs, Magallanes, were the first in their country to feel that it was time the game became professional, but Magallanes officials would have nothing to do with it and suspended the pair.

When the club lost the next match 5-0 without them, the rest of the players decided to leave, the last straw being when David's nomination as captain was blocked by the committee at the annual meeting on April 12, 1925.

The players walked out and went to have supper at a Santiago restaurant, called Quitapanes, to talk things over. This is generally considered the birthplace of the Colo Colo club.

Remain

A week later, at a soccer field called El Llano, the players met to decide the name of the new club to fit this group of rebels.

They chose black and white colours, which remain to this day.

Colo Colo were in the news from the start, because they did things in a big way. They had what many considered the cheek to enter the Metropolitan First Division right away and decided to train during the week — something which had not been heard of before.

They soon looked strong candidates to win the title and they did, becoming known as "the unbeatables".

Soccer officially became professional in Chile in 1933 and ironically Magallanes, whose officials had strongly opposed it at the time of Colo Colo's formation, won the first three titles, but Colo Colo were on the honours list in 1937.

Throughout the club's history many of Chile's best players have worn the Colo Colo shirt. In the footsteps of David Arellano — who died while still playing after crashing into a rival in 1927 on a club tour of Spain — came such names as Guillermo Subiabre, Francisco Valdez, Edson Beiruth, Carlos Caszely, Enrique and Francisco Hormazabal, Mario Galindo, Jaime Rodriguez and goalkeeper Roberto Rojas (now under FIFA life suspension following incidents in the 1989 World Cup qualifier against Brazil).

There was also George Robledo, who set a novel record by playing against England in a World Cup finals match and then appearing in two FA Cup Finals.

Robledo played for Chile in the 1950 finals in Brazil, then joined Newcastle and appeared at Wembley in 1951 and 1952, gaining a winner's medal both times and scoring the only goal in the second match, against Arsenal.

He also topped the First Division scorers list that season, with 33 goals.

Robledo's younger brother, Ted, also played in the 1952 game.

Colo Colo are one of the few South American clubs who frequently engage European coaches. Three of their early titles were won under Hungarian coach "Francisco" Platko (1939, 1941, 1953) and they have now lifted the Libertadores Cup under Yugoslav coach Mirko Jozik, who was already in charge when they won last year's First Division title for the second season in a row.

But the club fell on hard times in spite of popularity, success on the field and big gate receipts. The players could not be paid on time, some of the best had to be sold, and large debts mounted up for reasons common in South America — bad management, and promising and paying players more than they produced.

Revival

All these problems weakened the club, although they continued to do well on the domestic scene.

The revival six years ago was largely due to Peter Dragicevic, a young, well-to-do, energetic Chilean businessman and soccer fan.

He wanted to be president of Colo Colo, and emerged from among the chaos to achieve that ambition.

Earlier this year he resigned for reasons not quite clear, but he was the man responsible for transforming Colo Colo from the leading club in Chile to the leading club on the continent.

Results did not come immediately, but once finances were put in order Colo Colo could become buyers again, and they did it wisely (which had often not been the case before).

Argentines Jose Moron (goal) and strikers Marcelo Barticciotto and Ricardo Dabrowski had not been top-liners in their own country, but they are now considered among the best in Chile.

Colo Colo, who were able to buy some of the leading players from other local clubs, such as Ruben Espinosa, Eduardo Vilches and Ruben Martinez, all internationals, as well as veteran winger Patricio Yanez, who had been playing in Spain.

On top of that the club inaugurated a new 62,000 capacity stadium in Santiago in 1989, named Estadio Monumental David Arellano, after the man who started it all.

Jozik took over as coach from Arturo Salah towards the end of last year, when the latter was put in charge of the national team, like many of the club's coaches before him.

Colo Colo had eight men in the squad at the time.

There were no immediate technical and tactical changes in a team already topping the table, but by the time they made their debut in this year's Libertadores Cup, they had changed from their more defensive 4-4-2, close marking and counter-attack formation.

Jozik goes for simple, fast play with every move directed to reaching goal, while all attack and all defend.

The team now play less rigid and more agile soccer and take opportunities better. They now play what might be described as 1-1-2-1-2-1-2-1 (see graph).

After postponing games early in this season's championship while engaged in the Libertadores Cup, Colo Colo have now moved to the top of the table again — leading by three points after 20 of the 30 First Division games.

The World Club Cup in Tokyo was a different story though, with Red Star Belgrade of Yugoslavia overwhelming Colo Colo despite having Dejan Savicevic sent off in the first half.

Two goals from man-of-the-match Vladimir Jugovic and one from Darko Pancev gave Red Star a comfortable 3-0 victory (see pages 16 and 17 for full details).

The experience will not have done Colo Colo any harm though, as they prepare to defend their Libertadores Cup title.

Colo Colo's experienced captain Jaime Pizarro.

COLO COLO:

ADDRESS: *Club Atletico Colo Colo, Calle Cienfuegos 41, Santiago, Chile.*

STADIUM: *Estadio Monumental David Arellano, Avenida Departamental 2550, Santiago, Chile.*

STADIUM CAPACITY: *62,000.*

COLOURS: *White shirts with black shoulder stripes, black shorts, black and white socks.*

FOUNDED: *1925.*

PRESIDENT: *Eduardo Menichetti Fuentas.*

TEAM COACH: *Mirko Jozic (Yugoslavia).*

HONOURS: *Chilean First Division Titles (17): 1937, 1939, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1953, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1989, 1990. Libertadores Cup Winners: 1991.*

THE COACH:

Mirko JOZIC.
Yugoslav who became known in Chile when he was in charge of the Yugoslav Under-20 team who won the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Youth Championship there in 1987.

Later he was engaged by Colo Colo to work with the junior teams and took charge of the first team when Arturo Salah was named national coach in September last year.

Colo Colo went on to win the title for the second year running. Jozic goes for simple and fast play, keeping the ball on the ground, always with the idea of reaching the opposing goal by the shortest way with all attacking and all defending in a formation which acts like a concertina.

Garrido . . . Colo Colo's veteran libero.

LEADING PLAYERS

Jose D. MORON.
Goalkeeper.
(Born 30.09.57). Argentine goalkeeper considered to be the best in Chile. In his fifth season with Colo Colo, and has improved every year. Has no apparent weaknesses, saves many "certain" goals, and is spectacular, fearless and with excellent reflexes. Frequently moves out of goal to clear with his defence beaten.

Lizardo GARRIDO.
Libero.
(Born 25.08.57). Libero and, at 34, oldest player in team (jointly with Moron), but still strong and agile. Good at heading and shows up well in starting attacks. He commands in defence, and is a regular in the national team, with 37 caps.

Eduardo VILCHES.
Defender.
(Born 21.04.63). International defender who came to the fore last season, when he was first picked for Chile. Fast, energetic, a good head, and fits well into defensive triangle with Ramirez and Garrido.

Miguel RAMIREZ.
Defender.
(Born 11.07.70). The third member of defensive triangle imposed by coach Jozik. Good at positioning and breaking up attacks.

Javier MARGAS.
Left-back.
(Born 10.05.69). Strong and a good marker on left, winning the ball with feet and head, frequently moving into attack down the middle. Another of the new revelations at 22, and has made a position in the national team his own this year.

Jaime PIZZARRO.
Midfield.
(Born 02.03.64). Most useful, steady player, with vast international experience (44 caps). A good head for tactics and the midfield organiser — the best in Chile.

Gabriel MENDOZA.
Right-back.
(Born 22.05.68). Right-flank defender, fast and tough marker. Makes use of his speed to move into open spaces and serves up good high centres.

Ruben ESPINOSA.
Midfield.
(Born 01.06.60). Versatile midfielder always in the thick of defence and attack. His hard shooting frequently puts him among the scorers (as in this year's Libertadores Cup, in which he was the team's second highest with five goals).

Raul ORMENO.
Midfield.
(Born 21.06.58). Captain who missed a lot of Libertadores Cup action through injury, but is back in action now. Midfielder who makes his presence felt and marks strongly.

Marcelo BARTICCIOTTO.
Forward.
(Born 31.12.66). Argentine striker who only hit headlines when he moved to Chile, where he is now one of the best players. Physically and mentally fast, an outstanding dribbler to beat rivals or draw them before passing. Was a leading scorer last season, but has become more of an attacking half, preparing goals, under Jozik's tactics.

Ricardo DABROWSKI.
Forward.
(Born 28.03.61). Another Argentine striker. Makes use of his height to head well and has an eye for goal. The team's leading scorer in this year's Libertadores Cup (with six goals), who also marks well and runs all over field.

Patricio YANEZ.
Forward.
(Born 20.01.61). A 30-year-old veteran international with plenty of experience, who played several seasons in Spain. A winger whose speciality is mixing up defences with outstanding ball control but often talks himself into trouble.

Luis PEREZ.
Forward.
(Born 17.04.65). Mostly a reserve forward with few first-team chances but showed his paces in the Libertadores Cup final, in which he scored two of the three goals.

Leonel HERRERA.
Forward.
(Born 16.08.71). Another reserve forward, just 20, who also took one of his rare first-team chances. His Libertadores debut was in the final, and he scored to round off a fine performance.

Ruben MARTINEZ.
Forward.
(Born 27.11.64). League top scorer with Cobresal a couple of seasons ago. Colo Colo bought him, has not had a regular first-team place although in the national squad, but is still leading First Division scorer this season.

Hugo RUBIO.
Forward.
(Born 05.07.60). Experienced international forward who formed excellent attack trio with Ivan Zamorano and Yanez for Chile in this year's Copa America. Played in Switzerland for St Gallen until this season.

Juan Carlos PERALTA.
Midfield.
(Born 04.02.68). Defensive midfielder, one of the newcomers who has not played much in first team but always responds well.

THE NCTIVE

. . . of my lifetime among the greats

Then a brainwave struck Tony Waddington, Stoke's new manager who'd been hired to fight yet another relegation campaign in an emptying ground: Why not bring back the crowds and the good times by bringing home the Potteries' favourite son? Even if he was 46!

There's never been a smarter £2,500 transfer. Only 18 months later, I was in the Stoke dressing-room with Matthews celebrating his first goal of the season, a 2-0 win over Luton, the Second Division championship, and the end of a 10-year exile from the First Division.

The floor was awash with champagne, but not a milligram disappeared down Stan's throat. He didn't drink. He advertised cigarettes, but didn't smoke. He shunned the frying-pan and ate frugally, journeying nowhere without a supply of All-bran.

Matthews went into the toilet before every match and thrust his fingers down his throat until he spewed into the bowl. At half-time, Stan always changed his boots — if boots is the right word for hand-made footwear of the softest leather.

Long before adidas or Puma, Matthews had grasped the advantage of lightweights and, it was rumoured, of yielding wings on which to wear them. Friendly firemen, deploying hoses on the nights before home matches, were said to take care of that.

Thousands of people will tell you Tom Finney was the better player. Lots of them are former managers . . . and, from their point of view, Finney provided more options. He played marvellously on either wing and at centre-froward for Preston and England. See the photo (above) of Tom flying through spray like a water-skier.

I studied both men, together and singly, on numerous occasions and cannot utter one detracting word about Tom except for this. I've seen another Finney, but there was only one Stan.

I saw Finney in direct opposition to his double at Florence in 1952, the first match of an England tour immortalised by Nat Lofthouse becoming the "Lion of Vienna."

This second Finney was Giampiero Boniperti, later president of Juventus, also the master of three attacking positions — as he showed the next year at Wembley when scoring twice for the Rest of Europe.

Matthews, though, remained unique, even when nearly every club in the land could call upon the services of dribbling, shuffling imitators.

Not one got it right — the startling change of pace, the perfect balance, the control so complete that Matthews had no need to look down and, finally, the cross delivered with such accuracy that any modest jumper-and-header might find himself going for 20 goals a season.

When people ask me if Matthews would have thrived in modern football, I say two words to them . . . John Robertson!

Tubby little John of Forest won two Champions' Cups, a League title, a couple of League Cups and two dozen Scottish international caps, with no more than two-thirds of Stan's ability. He crossed a good ball and could be lightning over the first five yards. It was enough!

Hypnotised

When people doubt Matthews's willingness to cope with modern titanic tacklers like Stuart Pearce or Pat van den Hauwe, I tell them the story of Ian McFarlane virtually chipping him over Chelsea's stand in 1956.

McFarlane, a fierce, brawny Aberdonian, put Matthews out of the match for the best part of 20 minutes. No subs then, remember.

Stan returned in pain and heavily strapped, but with the fighting genes of his boxer-father on full song. "Knock it in", he told Jimmy Armfield, his right-back, who then fed Matthews the passes to humiliate and eventually destroy the man who'd injured him.

Armfield never forgets the end . . . Matthews just walking with the ball towards McFarlane, rolling it at him, defying him to make even the slightest attempt to regain possession instead of going backwards, hypnotised and drained of all confidence.

I write of Matthews in such detail because he remains the most distinctive footballer of my 41 unbroken years on the sports staff of national newspapers. These are the players to treasure, these who do what the others can't.

I saw a goalkeeper carried off with a shoulder broken in trying to save one of Roberto Rivelino's rocketing free-kicks. I saw Johan Cruyff spinning the ball from the flag to the far post at Dortmund, striking a team-mate's forehead the way Steve Davis plays off the cushion.

I saw Gunter Netzer pull England to pieces with his size 12s at Wembley by finding spaces often invisible even from the press box some 60 feet above the pitch. I saw Pele in Mexico when he failed by only a yard to chip Czechoslovakia's 'keeper from the centre circle.

I never saw Diego Maradona's training trick of passing the ball firmly off his backside, but I was in the Azteca when he shook off four England players in a run from his own half and then, feigning a shot with his left, switched as Peter Shilton dived for the ball. The "Foot of God," that one.

And, of course, there was George Best who imprinted himself on my memory in 1964 at the end of a hectic FA Cup-tie against Sunderland, when Manchester United were 3-2 behind at Old Trafford with only three minutes remaining.

Nobby Stiles crossed a ball that Sunderland thought was running over the by-line; Charlie Hurley, trying to clear, headed it down to Best.

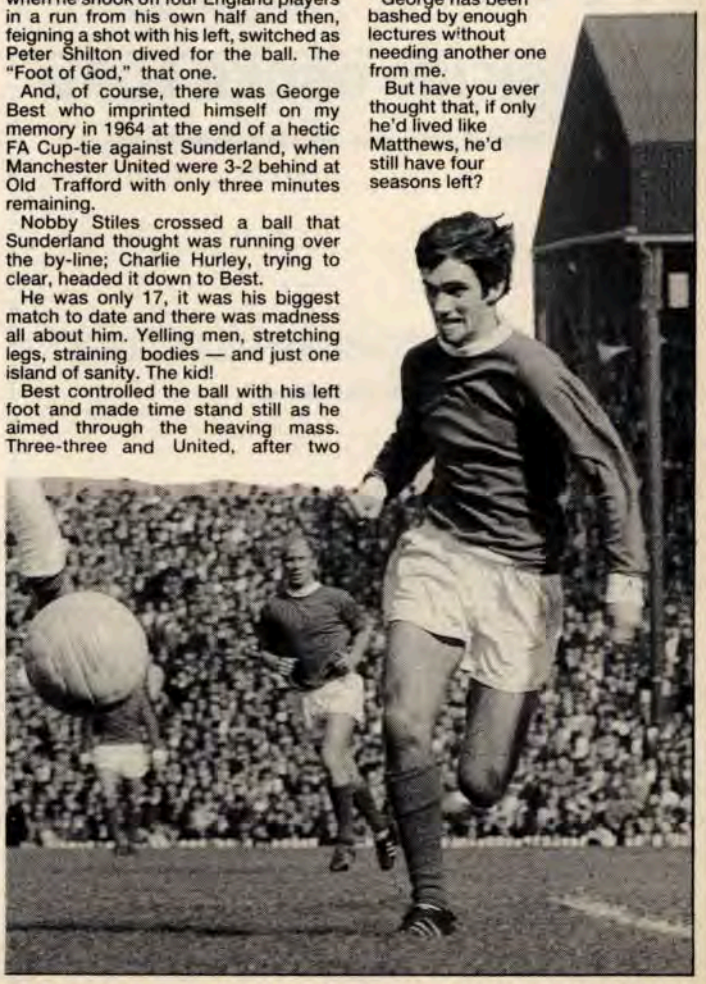
He was only 17, it was his biggest match to date and there was madness all about him. Yelling men, stretching legs, straining bodies — and just one island of sanity. The kid!

Best controlled the ball with his left foot and made time stand still as he aimed through the heaving mass. Three-three and United, after two replays, went on to the semi-final. I remember Best, too, for something that even he couldn't possibly have done – except that I'm sure I saw it.

Imagine a semi-circle of Arsenal defenders barring his path at Old Trafford and Best (below) using their shins as walls . . . one, two, three, collecting the rebound, pinging it back, drawing them in, then finding the gap. Supernatural.

George has been bashed by enough lectures without needing another one from me.

But have you ever thought that, if only he'd lived like Matthews, he'd still have four seasons left?



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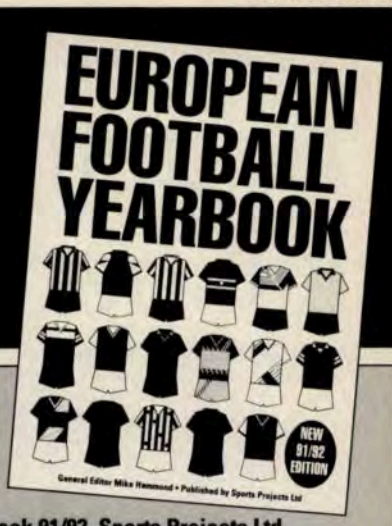

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SPOTLIGHT ON — Carlos Alberto **PARREIRA**

I'm going to put the skill back in Brazil

Parreira . . . points at himself in a 1970 Brazilian World Cup squad picture at CBF headquarters.

WHEN Carlos Alberto Parreira says that his team are going to play like Brazilians, you might think he is taking the football manager's habit of stating the obvious to a ridiculous extreme. After all, Parreira is the new manager of Brazil.

But after the reigns of his predecessors Sebastiao Lazaroni and Paulo Roberto Falcao, both of which were gloomier than a wet afternoon in Sao Paulo, Parreira's declaration comes as a pleasant surprise.

Lazaroni, in charge from 1989 until the end of the 1990 World Cup, and Falcao, his successor who was sacked in August, both attempted to make the Brazil national team play like what they thought was a European side. The emphasis was on physical strength, winning the ball and defending in depth. Lazaroni's spell was nicknamed the "Dunga era" after he held the hard-tackling Fiorentina midfielder's style to be the example the others should follow.

Results, however, spoke for themselves. Instead of losing but delighting the public, as in the 1982 World Cup, Brazil simply lost. They were knocked

1982 World Cup . . . Brazil lost, but they were highly entertaining losers — as in this 3-2 defeat by Italy.

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***WORLD SOCCER:* Brazil have been criticised recently for abandoning their traditional style. How are they going to play under you?**

PARREIRA: We intend to stick to the traditional characteristics of the Brazilian game. Brazil has always been admired for technique and skill and we want to start playing this type of football again. We know it will not be easy, the difficulties are very big because we have a lot of players out of Brazil. But we don't believe in putting a strait-jacket on the team. We believe Brazil do best with the freedom to play. It is easy to say, it will be difficult to do but we are going to bring back the good times.

***WS:* Do you think Lazaroni and Falcao were too defensive?**

CAP: In the 1989 Copa America, Brazil were very good, brilliant even. But in the World Cup — I don't know what exactly happened — Brazil never played true Brazilian football. The team was like a prisoner to something. It had no creativity, no strength, it was in a shell. In no game did Brazil manage to reproduce the best performances of the Copa America, and much less of Brazilian football.

***WS:* Many people say today's Brazilian players are not as talented as past generations. What do you think about this?**

CAP: Brazil do not have any more Zicos, any more Rivelinos. But in the same way, Germany have no more Beckenbauers or Overaths. I don't think the standard of world football has fallen, but it is different today. Twenty years ago, the great players had more space and time. But football has changed. It's faster, there is less space. The standard of Brazilian players is still among the best in the world — all we have to do is organise it.

Look at the recent league matches. The matches were fantastic. Marvellous goals are being scored, and we are seeing some very good football — brilliant moves, creativity, skill. This proves for once and for all that Brazilian football is not dead.

***WS:* You mentioned organisation. What do you think about the state championships?**

CAP: Tele (Santana) said it and I will say it as well: the state championships are technically of a low standard, they are not financially viable, they are six months down the drain. You can't have matches like Vasco and Sao Cristovao with 350 people. We see on the television matches in Europe with 70 or 80,000 people and receipts of 3 million dollars. Here the receipts are 50,000 dollars. The most important competition in our country today is the national championship.

The standard is good, it involves all the big clubs, it provides income and there is more interest among the public. This championship has to be given more value and more time, increasing the season from three to six months and deciding it on points.

***WS:* But you know this must be difficult because of the political complications. Have you spoken to the CBF president about this?**

CAP: The problem is that the political side often carries more weight than the technical side. The CBF this year proposed a championship with 20 clubs decided on points, but the clubs are trying to change everything. There are other interests at stake apart from football.

The clubs have a committee and I think it is they who decide. It's difficult for the CBF because the CBF does not actually possess one club. It tries to organise the championship but the 20 clubs have different views. However, once we manage to organise a calendar which answers the interests of the clubs, both in terms of the standard of football and in terms of finance, Brazilian football will be back among the best.

***WS:* Another big problem is that all the best players are in Europe. How do you intend to get around this?**

CAP: We are always seeing this. Three or four of the team who played against Yugoslavia are interested in moving abroad. You have to keep starting over and over again. You never even manage to get half way there, because players keep leaving. This year, we don't intend to use players who are in Europe. And next year very little because trying to get players released gives you a lot of headaches and very little in return.

If you bring someone from Europe to play a friendly in Brazil with a time difference, change of climate, transatlantic journey — you get no real benefit on the playing side. Our idea is to form the base of the team here in Brazil and when it comes to an official competition — Copa America or World Cup qualifiers — bring players from abroad to fill positions which we feel are not well covered. Technically, the players who are based abroad are better but we don't want to be prisoners to foreign-based players.

We don't want to have to worry about them arriving on the eve of a competition. We don't want to depend only on them.

***WS:* It has been suggested that as the best Brazilian players are in Europe, the manager should go and live there and the national team should be based there?**

CAP: Until 1970, we did not have this problem. In 1978, there were one or two cases. From 1982, the situation started to get complicated. And, coincidence or not, Brazil never reached another World Cup Final. In the last World Cup, we had some serious problems so I think the solution is to form the national team here in Brazil. But you can't make plans for the next two years ahead. You have to decide on the spur of the moment.

***WS:* Under Falcao, Brazil played friendlies almost every month. Will you do the same?**

CAP: Next year, we will have six or seven friendlies. More than this involves too much fighting with the clubs. In a year with no official competitions, I think six or seven friendlies is enough.

***WS:* Being Brazil manager is one of the most demanding jobs in football anywhere. The press, the public and the directors all demand a lot. Does this worry you? Do you think you will survive until 1994?**

CAP: (Laughing): Good question. Very good question. When you take on the managership of Brazil you know you are obliged to win the World Cup. In some countries they are satisfied with the European Championship or even if you win a few games. When Holland lost in the 1978 Final, they were welcomed home by the Queen. Here, it is the cup and nothing but the cup. Here, they do not even value reaching the Final. It was the same with Zagalo (in 1974), with Tele and with Lazaroni.

It worries me but it does not scare me. I can still sleep at night — for the time being. Remember, I have been in this job before. It was the same for Evaristo de Macedo, the same for Edu, Lazaroni was different because he won the Copa America but he almost didn't survive either, and it was the same with Falcao. This stupid demand is not human and not rational. I had been offered the job earlier but I had a contract with Saudi Arabia which I could not break. This time there was no way I could refuse. I was in Brazil, virtually finished with Bragantino and I had to accept. There is only one solution: win all the games. Little has changed in terms of organisation. The clubs still don't want to release their players.

***WS:* In the Middle East you didn't have these problems?**

CAP: No, the Middle East is different. Normally the president of the federation is son or brother of the king of the country and you had the players in your hand. With Kuwait, when we qualified for the 1982 World Cup, the president of the federation was brother of the Emir and the players were released for

out of the 1990 World Cup in the second round in one of their worst ever performances and earlier this year lost the South American title they had won under Lazaroni in 1989.

Worse, Brazil's second place owed more to fighting spirit than traditional flair.

Parreira says he intends to reverse a trend which really began before Lazaroni took over. Ever since the defensive catastrophies of 1982, there has been an ever-growing current of opinion in Brazil that the country's football should follow the Europeans.

"Brazil have always been admired for technique and skill and we want to start playing this type of football again," Parreira told *WORLD SOCCER*.

That is not to say that Brazil will repeat their performances of 1970 and 1982 — they do not have any more players in the class of Pele, Zico or Socrates. But it still promises to be an improvement on Lazaroni, who declared before one World Cup qualifier that he would be happy for Brazil to win "with an offside goal, scored with a handball in the 47th minute of the second half."

Parreira also says he will use home-based players in most games, only turning to the Europeans for official competitions and when he can't find a suitable home-based player for the position in question. He admits this could involve "constant starting over again" because of the rate at which Europe snaps up Brazil's best players.

The first performance under Parreira was promising. Brazil beat a much-weakened Yugoslavia 3-0 — admittedly, the Yugoslavs had just completed an exhausting 24-hour plane and bus journey — using only home-based players, including Elivelton and Valdeir.

He insists that Brazilian football still has a lot to offer as long as it is organised properly. One of his first comments on taking over was that more time should be given to the national championship and less to the regional competitions.

This is Parreira's second term in charge of the national team. His first, in 1983, ended when Brazil were knocked out of the South American championship by Uruguay. His record was no disaster and Parreira says he could have carried on had he wanted. On the other hand, it was not up to the standards demanded by the public and press.

"I felt the climate was not right. Clubs such as Gremio were refusing to release players so I deliberately demanded a 500 per cent increase in my salary to renew my contract, knowing they would not accept."

That first term gave him an idea of how demanding the job is. He knows the CBF and the public have something in common with the villains in James Bond films, they do not tolerate failure.

"When you take over Brazil, you know you are obliged to win the World Cup," he says.

At 48, married with two children, Parreira describes his new job as "the biggest challenge of my career — of course."

He already has ample experience in coaching national football teams. He was in charge of Kuwait at the 1982 World Cup and the United Arab Emirates in 1990, has managed Saudi Arabia and, in 1984, won the Brazilian championship with Fluminense. Most recently he took Bragantino, an unfashionable team from Sao Paulo state, to the final of the Brazilian championship.

It was in 1970 that Parreira, who did not play football professionally, had his first taste of international football as a member of Brazil's coaching staff at the 1970 World Cup.

The manager then was Mario Zagalo, who is now Parreira's adviser, at Parreira's request, forming what the press has dubbed a "super commissao tecnica." Between them Zagalo and Parreira have taken part in seven World Cups.

● *Edu . . . 1984 -1985.*

● *Santana . . . June '85-June '86.*

● *Lazaroni . . . March '89-June '90.*

● *Falcao . . . Sept' 90-July '91.*

two years by decree. In Saudi Arabia it was the same thing. He asked me how long I wanted the players for and that was it, without any trouble. There is pressure but it is not as strong as here because if the press complain too much, they are told to stop. But there are still demands. They change managers as well. They lose, they change; they lose, they change.

***WS:* Is it easier to be manager of an Arabian team or Brazil?**

CAP: It is easier out there but the challenge and the satisfaction are greater here. And this, now, is the biggest challenge of my career.

***WS:* What was the best moment of your coaching career?**

CAP: When I won the Brazilian championship in 1984 with Fluminense, as it was the year after I left the national team. Also going to the World Cup with Kuwait.

***WS:* Why did you choose Zagalo as your assistant?**

CAP: This is something new in Brazilian football. We have been friends for more than 20 years, we have worked together with the Brazil team, at Fluminense and in Kuwait.

He has helped my career a lot and suddenly the idea came back of going back to 1970. Brazil had suffered failure after failure and it was felt someone of weight was needed. So when they asked me to be manager, I suggested Zagalo. But I make the decisions, I choose the team and I lead the training.

He is an adviser and it is a luxury for me to have an adviser of his ability. But it would not work with anyone else. This is only because it is Zagalo and he only accepted it because of our friendship.

***WS:* Can you give an idea of which players you intend to use in the short and long term?**

CAP: I don't know. We've just played our first game. But we've already made some headway with the defender Antonio Carlos, for example, and Elivelton. Considering it was their first game, they were excellent. Elivelton had never played for Brazil at any level, but he dribbled, he turned, he did not feel the weight of the shirt. I think we have to encourage this individualism he has. Of course, individualism has its limits but at certain moments it's good that a player tries something. We had Luis Henrique in a new role. For Bahia he always plays at the front, this time we put him in midfield. I think we made a lot of headway considering it was our first game. Rai played in the Copa America and did not do well but this time he played with more personality and produced more.

All the players who are in Europe are good enough to play. You can't throw their experience out of the window. When the time comes, we will use some of them. As for who they will be, it's too early to say.

***WS:* Would you discard any of the older players such as Careca by the next World Cup?**

CAP: No, I don't discard anyone. First we have to worry about the World Cup qualifiers and a lot can happen before then.

***WS:* What do you think about Neto?**

CAP: At club level, he is having a good spell at Corinthians. They won the Brazilian championship last year thanks to Neto. But he is an unusual type of player with unique characteristics. He participates very little during the match and he is easy to mark. But he is extremely important at dead-ball situations. There is probably nobody in the world who makes as much of corners and free kicks as Neto, he is amazing. For his club, he is excellent. For Brazil, where the demands are greater, he would have to adapt and move around a little more. I don't even want him to mark someone — simply to take part a little more in the game.

***WS:* Has Brazilian football become defensive?**

CAP: To a certain extent, yes, mainly because of the rules. Take the Sao Paulo championship. In the first phase, we had 14 teams each playing 26 games with five qualifying. The objective is often not to lose, not to make mistakes.

Now we are at the semi-final stage and only the winners of each group go through, so you have to score points and the goals have started appearing, the quality of the matches has improved.

There is also a lot of violence. This has never been a good side of our football. There has always been a lot of violence on the field.

European football is tough but it is not violent. Here you have players who are malicious who do not go for the ball but go to injure their fellow professionals.

We need to give more backing to the referees and impose tougher sanctions — two or three match suspensions, two or three months even. Once you start this, the violence will stop.

***WS:* What do you think of penalty shoot-outs as a way to decide drawn matches?**

CAP: I am against penalties, I think it is absolutely inhuman to eliminate a team from the World Cup finals, for example, on penalties. Anything would be better than penalties. But how do we resolve this? In the case of the World Cup, there are no spare dates. If you have the semi-final, for example, on the 27th and the final on the 30th, there's no time for a replay. If you change the dates, the other finalist will have to wait around ten days for the final.

Playing until the first team scores could take two hours or more. The players will not be in any state to go on and it will not be a game of football any more. In principle, I think the shoot-out is inhuman but it is difficult to find the answer. It is so difficult that, in all this time, FIFA still haven't found an alternative.

***WS:* What have you learned since the first time you were manager of Brazil?**

CAP: I think I have more security and confidence, more conviction in what I am doing. I know where I want to go and how I want to get there.

***WS:* Do you think Brazil will ever produce another truly great player?**

CAP: It is difficult for another really great player to appear in world football today. The game today doesn't have any space. Pele and the Brazil team of 1970 were great to watch but football then was much slower. Today, football demands more of the players. Today, you have to be faster, more skilful, you have to be in better physical shape, you have to think quicker. There's more action today — you can have a 0-0 draw with lots of action in the penalty area.

Gray . . . missed a great chance in Poznan.

A BIZARRE WAY TO MAKE A SILK PURSE

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

NAPOLEON, as we know, used never to appoint a marshal without asking: "Is he lucky?" In the case of Graham Taylor, appointment would have been automatic.

"We've got here, I don't know how," Bobby Robson is alleged to have said, when England reached the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup.

Taylor might echo those words now that his team have reached the European Championship finals.

Patriotism, the last refuge of a scoundrel, as Dr Johnson had it, has caused some misguided commentators to trumpet the achievement of the England team, but it would do everyone more good to look objectively at the facts and to appreciate that England, like Scotland, have sidled into the finals of a competition in which they will do nothing of consequence, unless they radically improve.

As recently as last May, Jack Charlton was irrepressibly buoyant about Ireland's chances, even though they had just thrown away victory at home to the Poles, missing chance after early chance at Lansdowne Road, and very nearly giving away goals in the closing stages.

Charlton, utterly sure of the validity of his style, clearly believed Ireland would win in Poland and in Turkey. So they should have done. They were far the best team in the group, but threw away victory in Poznan, albeit in a somewhat different manner than they'd done in Dublin.

Scraped

A 3-1 lead scarcely flattered them against a Polish team penetrated time and again by the swift, sharp Irish attacks, by no means limited to up-and-under, long-ball tactics.

But those two appalling blunders by Pat Bonner, so recently a World Cup hero, robbed Ireland of the win they deserved, so that eventual success in Istanbul, putting England to shame by implication, was of no more than academic importance.

England scraped home against the Turks at Wembley, thanks to a goalkeeping error of monumental proportions; just as they scraped home against Turkey in Izmir.

They should have lost to Ireland at Wembley, when the Irish were far the better team, but flung away victory with that dreadful miss by Ray Houghton, in the second half.

Taylor might well reply that the errors and self-inflicted wounds of the Irish are hardly his or England's fault. Nor are they. The charge is that he and Lawrie McMenemy look no more convincing a pair of England managers than they did a year ago.

If Taylor, like the American comedian Rodney Dangerfield, complains that he "don't get no respect," the answer is all too obvious.

What has he or his team done to merit it, other than sneak into the finals in Sweden?

In Poznan, the bizarre choice of no fewer than three players who'd yet to make their international debut almost sank the English team.

Andy Gray is a player whom I have long . . . well, let us use the word respected, if for his talent, rather than his temperament. Put him in a Crystal Palace shirt, and you could never imagine him missing the easy chance so splendidly fashioned by a movement better than any in the match

Instead, Gray seized up pitifully, and missed horribly. A goal at that moment, midway through the first half, probably would have demoralised the Poles. Instead they were able to go ahead not long afterwards and it was a long time before England got back into the game.

Andy Sinton played an honourable part in the move which led up to Andy Gray's chance, but to cap him for the first time in such a match seemed an aberration. Not least when there were players such as Chris Waddle and Trevor Steven available.

Waddle, justifiably piqued, has now bowed out. Steven could be excused for doing so. He was misused in a central midfield position against Germany, one he has scarcely filled since his Burnley days, was abruptly left out of the side that played Turkey, then dropped altogether from the squad which went to Poland.

Limited

You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear and, though the choice of players for any England manager is depressingly limited, neither can you make an international team out of pedestrian players.

Less than a week after England had struggled in Poznan, I watched Andy Gray and Geoff Thomas playing in the Crystal Palace midfield against Birmingham City.

You'd have had to be told they were international players.

Otherwise, you would never have known it as they struggled to assert themselves, in vain, against the lively midfield of what is, after all, still a Third Division club, however impressively Terry Cooper has managed to improve the team.

Sinton . . . substituted at half-time after a difficult debut against Poland.

Cliff Bastin remembered

Highbury hero . . . Bastin (right) blocks a shot from another great, Horatio Carter of Derby County.

THE DEATH of Cliff "Boy" Bastin at 79, is especially saddening to me, as I had the great pleasure, as a 17-year-old, of "ghosting" his autobiography, *Cliff Bastin Remembers*. It was a labour of love, and an act of piety.

Driving along the North Circular with my parents, I'd seen a sign: The Cliff Bastin Cafe. I wrote to him, in the fervour of youth, and asked if he could let me help him with an autobiography. He wrote back, thanking me for my "glowing tribute to his career."

Findon Publishers had of late, he said, suggested such a publication, sold at one and sixpence, which he thought "a bit of an insult." So I had the good fortune to collaborate with him. Long Sunday evenings, sustained by cups of strong tea and cheese sandwiches, generously provided by his wife.

What a marvellous career it was! Cliff was an Exeter boy, signed from Exeter City by his idol, Herbert Chapman, when he was 17, and had won every honour in the game by the time he was 19.

He was an inside-forward when he got to Highbury and eventually would play as such during the war, but Chapman turned him into a superb left-winger.

Alex James, that splendid Scot, was his partner. They combined, at a free-kick, to score the opening goal for Arsenal against Chapman's previous club, Huddersfield Town, in the Cup Final of 1930. Cliff also delivered the pass from which Ted Drake scored the winner in the 1936 Final versus Sheffield United.

"Basta Bastin!" (we've had enough of Bastin) yelled the crowd in Rome, when Cliff scored for England in the 1-1 draw against Italy in 1933: the first game between the countries.

The following year, Hugo Meisl, grand panjandrum of the Austrian national team, told his brother, Willy, that his team were too tired to win the World Cup in Italy, but if he could have just one player, he would triumph. The player? Cliff Bastin.

Compounded

The book had a kind of succes de scandale. Young and naive as I was, I took down everything Cliff said, religiously. Cut off from the world by his deafness, he had no doubt of his own prowess. Yet his early beginning was so to speak compounded by an early end.

He never played for England during the war, when he was in the Civil Defence. His pace deserted him, but not his skill and his strategy.

Cliff, I salute you. That book, which I wrote as an act of homage, gave me a start in Fleet Street I had never bargained for. You were a great player and a deeply decent man.

ON THE BENCH, POZNAN STYLE

I'M amazed that FIFA and UEFA so blandly allow international matches to be played in Poland.

Facilities for the media in Katowice, where Poland mostly played for so many years, were a fiasco. The run-down, wooden-benched stadium at Poznan was an absolute parody of what a ground which puts on international matches should be.

The luckier journalists, who had telephones, sat high above the throng. Those of us who didn't were obliged, like everybody else, to stand throughout.

All the spectators were standing, many of them on the seats.

UEFA and FIFA don't seem to be concerned, any more than UEFA showed sufficient concern and assiduity before unforgiveably assigning the 1985 Champions' Cup Final to the rickety Heysel Stadium.

UEFA have pronounced themselves outraged at the decision of a Brussels court to confirm their verdict that Hans Bangerter, the ex-secretary of UEFA, should be found one of those responsible for the disaster, but I am utterly delighted.

I don't believe that Bangerter was one of the UEFA men whose cursory inspection of Heysel passed the stadium as fit for the Final, one winter's day early in 1985, but as titular head of UEFA at the time, he is clearly the man to pillory, and the symbolic significance of the Brussels decision is very plain.

When, incidentally, I complained to UEFA at the shocking media facilities at Katowice, when last England played there, and at the Under-21 match played the day before, it was to receive a wonderfully bureaucratic response: that I should have complained to the UEFA representative at the time!

Oh, UEFA, UEFA!

What bureaucratic idiocies are committed in thy name!

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QUESTION

The 1968 European Cup Final between Manchester United and Benfica at Wembley went to extra-time...what was the final score?

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letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

Pearce please

SIR — I cannot pick any faults with the contents of recent issues. But the booklet with the November issue, listing the World's top 100 players, missed out possibly the best left-back in the world, Stuart Pearce.
This man has come through the ordeal of the penalty miss in the World Cup semi-final against Germany and since then has played the best football of his life, becoming the backbone and driving force for England. His detrermination and commitment are unrivalled.
Give him some credit by printing this letter, at least.

— NIC GRIFFITHS, Calverton, Nottingham, England.

An annual event

SIR — The World's Top 100 booklet, which came with the November issue of *WORLD SOCCER*, is very impressive. You should make it an annual — or perhaps even bi-annual — appendix to *WORLD SOCCER*.
You wrote, "Obviously not all our readers will agree with the selection . . . That's true.
I have carefully gone through the list, and I agree with 90 of the 100 players. However, I must say: Bonner? O'Leary? Black? Clarke? Belodedic? Larsson? Illgner? Harkes? Ruggeri? Shoubeir?
O'Leary and Larsson were once very close to being world-class players, but they are now descending. Ruggeri is one of the most violent players, I have ever seen, and it is a tragedy that he has a World Cup winner's medal.
I would rate at least 40 others above those ten.
Concerning Danish football, I agree that the Laudrups and Schmeichel are our only top players. But even so, B1903 and Denmark are doing quite well at the moment . . .
WORLD SOCCER is a very fine magazine, and has improved a lot in recent years. Keep up the good work.

— JENS NOHR, Ballerup, DENMARK.

A minor point

SIR — Over the years I have seen the quality of soccer decrease and it came to an all-time low at the World Cup in Italy.
The minor nations have not had a fair deal.
Why not enlarge the World Cup and European Championship qualifying rounds? Still have the better teams playing each other but without minnows in these groups. Set up two new groups eg: San Marino, Albania, Malta and Luxembourg and Faroe Isles, Cyprus, Liechenstein and Estonia or Latvia, or Lithuania.
It is very unfair to put a minnow nation against teams they have little or no chance of beating.
The World Cup qualifiers should be extended to eight groups with the minor teams going through from the last group.

— VALENTINE O'REILLY, Finglas, Republic of Ireland.

Close, but not yet

SIR — Your placing the United States player John Harkes among the 100 top players of 1991 is an act more damaging to the US and Mr. Harkes than if he was not so designated.
We in the US would be delighted if any one of our players were truly among the top 100.
If Harkes is worthy of this, why don't the world-renowned clubs knock on his door? Surely there are 100 better players in the world.
This is not to detract from John Harkes's ability, but he would be better served by a statement such as "close to the world's top 100 players" which might give him incentive to strive for the designation rather than swelling his head.
Hopefully John will prove to belong to this club of super-players.

— J. GOLDBERG,, Oceanside, New York, U.S.A.

Time for a change

SIR — Football could be improved by introducing a time keeper to stop and start the clock on three points: 1: When the goalkeeper has the ball, either from a back-pass or a dead-ball kick. This will stop him from wasting time, because he will have no time to waste. 2: When the referee has awarded a free-kick. This will stop players rolling around on the ground wasting time. If the player is injured he must leave the field for attention. If the referee has to stop play for a player to be carried off, then the clock is stopped. 3: When a substitution is being made.

— MARK BACKHOUSE, Salford, Lancs.

What about Pele?

SIR — I was surprised to see that Abedi Pele was left out of the 100 top players in your supplement. Maybe it was a slip. Pele has been in the running for African Footballer of the Year in each of the last four years.

— AUGUSTINE MENSAH, Dansoman Estate, Accra, Ghana.

More officials

SIR — I am a 22-year-old Liverpool fan living in the United States through my marriage to an American citizen. Having lived here for 18 months I would like to tell everyone that soccer is a well-appreciated sport here, especially among the younger generation. I am in agreement wholeheartedly with Mr John Blom (December, 1991), stop whining. The World Cup is coming to the United States in 1994, so let's just accept the fact. A successful World Cup will be contributed to by the planning committee, stadium officials, players, coaches, fans and officials. The quality of the stadiums in the United States is far superior, even at the collegiate and high school levels, to those in England (I'm sorry to say)
My one suggestion, as seems customary of most of the letters published in *WORLD SOCCER* is this. Why not have more officials in control of professional matches? I have seen through watching American football, basketball and baseball, the big three sports in America, more officials lead to smoother resolvement of controversial incidents. More officials means more pairs of eyes watching the game and also being able to consult each other when needed. Give the head referee overall seniority, but have all three being able to make calls. I don't mean eliminate linesmen — they are still needed to run the lines and make offside calls.
With all the rule changes going on wouldn't it be fairer to spread the responsibility rather than have it all on one man's shoulders? After all, if a controller of a multi-million dollar company who makes vital calls and decisions, gets paid $100,000 a year, shouldn't a man willing to make calls and decisions with the eyes of the world and hopes of a country resting on his shoulders get paid a lot of money, also. Let's share the responsibility, stop complaining and start looking forward to the next World Cup. Good luck England!

— SIMON ENGLAND, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

European union

SIR — I am writing to express my great discontent concerning the lack of televising of international football as well as football generally in the UK.
Last summer, I went to Italy for my holidays. Among other things, I had time to watch some television there. I was astounded at the amount of football coverage — live league matches (regularly), Italian internationals (live friendlies and qualifying matches), and a considerable amount of foreign football as well! Aren't we British as passionate about our football as the rest of Europe, or the World? If so, why are we starved of it?!

— M. PLIMMER, Taunton, Somerset.

No interest

SIR — As an American and as one who loves soccer, it saddens me to think of the World Cup coming here in 1994. There is either hatred or indifference for soccer in this country. It is ridiculed as a sport for immigrants (Mexicans or Slavs) who can't speak English, or it is accused of being boring (by people who worship one of the most truly boring sports ever, baseball).
The media here keep people in almost total ignorance of any knowledge of international soccer.
The World Cup will come and go with barely a shrug from America.

— JOHN FERRETTI, Staten Island, New York, United States.

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PENPALS

SWEDISH boy, 19, supports IFK Gothenburg, seeks penpals in UK, Ireland, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Write in English.
— Andreas Johansson, Smorslottsg. 18-3tr, S-416 77 Gothenburg, Sweden.

MALE soccer fan, 19, seeking penpals in any country. I support Inter and Barcelona. Please write in English. All letters answered.
— Bruce Poon, 674 Odetee-Oliony, Laval, Quebec H75 6A5, Canada.

SOCCER fan seeks penfriends in all South American countries, especially Uruguay.
— Liam Delahunty, 30 St Patrick's Tce, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Rep. of Ireland.

AC MILAN fan seeks penfriends anywhere,
— Marion, Stookens, Martinstown, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, Rep. of Ireland.

SOCCER-CRAZY boy, 16, seeks penpals worldwide, m/f, any age. Write in English.
— Henning Poulsen, Ivar Aasensvei 32, 0373 Oslo, Norway.

CSKA fan seeks penfriends, particularly those who follow Crystal Palace, Tottenham, Anderlecht and Barcelona.
— Ilya Ocheyetney, Volgogradskiy Prospect 141-2-56, 109443 Moscow, USSR.

ALL letters answered in English by 19-year-old seeking soccer fans m/f, 18-25.
— N. Svensson, 13 Auburn Street, Parramatta, NSW, Australia.

MALE, 17, supporter of Glasgow Rangers and Liverpool, seeks penpals in France and Italy, especially Marseille and Bari fans. Please write in English.
— Jim Doran, 213 Belmont Road, Belfast, BT4 2AG, N. Ireland.

RIVER PLATE fan seeks penpals, m/f, worldwide. All letters answered in Spanish/English.
— Mariano Rinaldi, Rivadivia 781 Dept 2, San Isidro 1642, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

MALE, 18, seeks contact with Monaco fans preferably from France, m/f.
— Sam Gillett, 19 Kent Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, England.

EVERTON and Spurs fans, please write, in English. All answered.
— Woo Kian Hoon, 545N, Sri Pahang Flat, Blok 2, Bukit Bangsar, 59000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

TEENAGE girl wants penpals. I support Arsenal, Tottenham and Juventus.
— Ida Erstad, Skjebstadasen 14, 4500 Mandal, Norway.

FEMALE penpals wanted, especially in Argentina, Finland, Italy and Australia, and Manchester United fans for preference. All letters answered, photo appreciated.
— Mark McGlynn, Moneen, Meelick, Co. Clare, Ireland.

AMERICAN player and fan, 26, moving to London in October 1992, seeks friends to help him integrate into soccer scene.
— John Hillen III, Box 1483 2-2 ACR, APO. NY 09139, US.

ASTON VILLA fan, 19, wants to hear from others worldwide, preferably Genoa, Valencia and Borussia Dortmund supporters.
— Jason Johnson, 58 Hall Street East, Darlaston, W. Midlands, WS10 8PB, England.

LIVERPOOL supporter, male, seeks penpals. Please write in English, all letters answered
— Trygve Lie, Odegardsvei 32, 1470 Lorenskog, Norway.

MALE/FEMALE penpals wanted. I am 18, a fan of Pele, Cruyff, Platini, etc.
— Vsevelod Makarov, yr. Kommyhbi 154-38, r.KHPOB 610033, USSR.

GOALKEEPER seeks others as penfriends, to exchange advice, etc.
— Mansuru Abubakari, c/o Amass FC, PO Box 3419, Kumasi, Ghana.

PENPALS wanted from United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Switzerland and Spain. Fond of soccer, drawing and music. Write in French/English.
— Francis Ignace Agbodjan, BP 13031, Lome, Togo.

FOOTBALL is my life and all letters will be answered in English or Japanese.
—Hideki Yoshida, Isikawa Apt. No. 408, Yoshida 3012, Yamaguchi 753, Japan.

GIRL, 19, no parents, seeks penfriends who might help to make life a little easier
— Madam Adama, c/o Serrima Awdu, PO Box 148, Sunyani, Ghana.

ASTON VILLA fan wants penpals in Germany and Holland, especially supporters of Kaiserslautern, Werder Bremen, Feyenoord and Ajax, 20-28, m/f. Please write in English.
— Ian Leach, 10 The Grove, West Heath, Birmingham B31 3JX, England.

GHANAIAN, 22, wants to contact soccer fans worldwide. All letters answered.
— Eric Lotsu, Box 512, Sunyani, Ghana.

I'M an 18-year-old girl seeking penfriends fond of football and music. Write in English-Spanish.
— Tuly Quintanilla, Magallanes 122 Ote, Mirasierra, Garza Garcia, NL, Mexico 66240.

AC MILAN and Marseille fan, 20, seeks penfriends anywhere.
— Rexford Afugal, c/o Paul Aboadne, City Hotel, PO Box 1980, Kumasi, Ghana.

MANCHESTER UNITED fan, 18, would like to correspond with any English United fans of same age group.
— Shaun McMullen, Box 2765, Olds, Alberta, Canada, TOM 1PO.

AC MILAN, Van Basten, Mikhailichenko and Dasayev fan, 20, seeks penfriends worldwide. Write in English or Japanese (all letters answered).
— Hideki Yoshida, Isikawa Apartment No 408, Yoshida 3012, Yamaguchi 753 Japan.

EXCHANGES

DERRY CITY and Leeds fan wants to contact others in Holland, France and Spain to exchange pennants.
— Martin McIntyre, 21 Simpsons Brae, Waterside, Derry, N. Ireland.

CANADIAN soccer journalist wants to hear from statisticians worldwide.
— Alex Shinerer, 623 Finch Avenue West, Apt 202, North York, Ontario, Canada.

SOCCER results, souvenirs, records etc for exchange.
— Gavin Stone, 68 Norwich Road, Cromer, Norfolk, England.

SOCCER souvenirs needed for exchange.
— Alexander Ivanov, Konenkova St. 5-133, Moscow, 127560, USSR.

PSV fan wants to exchange badges and other souvenirs with fans in Baltic States, Iceland, Faroes, New Zealand and Japan only.
— M.C.Tilman, Irenelaan 6, 5591 GE Heeze, Holland.

PENNANTS, scarves, badges etc. for exchange worldwide.
— Anatolij Babin, Vasilija Porika Street, 17-6, Kv. 79, 254208 Kiev 208, USSR.

WANTED for exchange: Brazilian national team statistics and other information.
— D. Woods, 19 Consort Close, Warley, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5XE, England.

BOOKS, magazines and other soccer items wanted for exchange.
— Gagik Egiazarian, Avan 3, Tumanian 10-8, 375101 Yerevan, Armenia, USSR.

COLLECTOR would like to exchange badges, souvenirs etc with British and West European collectors. All letters answered.
— Matthew Eastwood, 81 Winchester Road, Ash, Aldershot, Hants, GU12 6SU, England.

BADGES, pennants, programmes etc for exchange. Please write in English.
— Vladisla Olefirenko, Prospect Mira 21/15, 266013, Rovno, Ukraine, USSR.

STATISTICS about Estonian soccer for exchange with those of other countries.
— Hubert Tammik, Nisu 30-40, 200032 Tallinn, Estonia.

METAL BADGES wanted from any country. Replies guaranteed in English.
— Sergei Dubovic, Staromarinskoe Shosse 17-111, 127521 Moscow, USSR.

LARGE variety of cards for all American sports will be traded for unopened packets of Shooting Stars, Panini and Pro-set cards.
— Van Nightingale, 1139 N. Hart, Orange, CA 92667, United States.

COLLECTOR of club metal badges seeks exchanges, any country. Please write in English.
— Leszek Sledziona, W. Grunwalolzka 16 a/7, 39-300, Mielec, Poland.

MATCH tickets, programmes, badges etc. for exchange.
— Dirk Rogoschinski, Av Humboldt-Str. 12, Lubbenau/Spreewald, 0-7543, Germany.

SOUVENIRS from Poland can be exchanged for those of other countries. Write in English, please.
— Stefan Kwiecinski, 72-300 Gryfice, Ul. Niechorska 25/C/7, Poland.

REVIEWS

AT LAST we can welcome back the **EUROPEAN FOOTBALL YEARBOOK.**

After two fraught years rebuilding the operation, the second edition is out and about and in an increasingly competitive market.

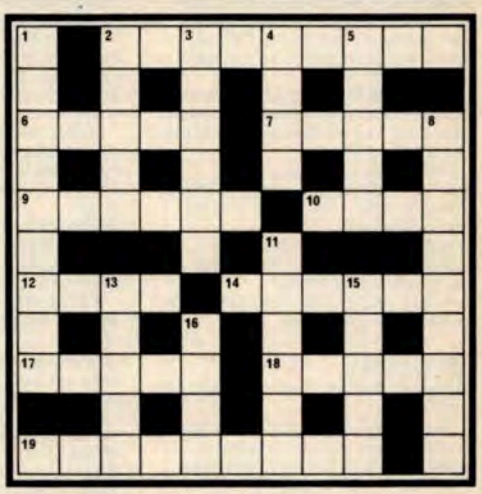
Once again editor, Mike Hammond, has pulled together all the appearances and goals from Europe's leagues with commendable eye for all the detail. The book runs country-by-country with a 1990-91 season's review in both text and statistics.

National team appearances are featured as well as all European club competitive line-ups. Collectors will welcome the club-by-club badge and kit colours section.

The Yearbook is NOT on general shop sale, though it is being stocked by SportsPages in London's Charing Cross Road. It is, however, available at £19.95 softback and £24.95 hardback from the publishers, Sports Projects, at 188 Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 5EH.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by **Christine Ansell**



Clues Across

2. AC Milan midfielder in Vicini's Italia '90 squad (9)
6. Forest and England U-21 defender formerly at Barnsley (5)
7. City to which the European Champions Cup returned from '63 to 65' (5)
9. Brazil's world club champions, 1962-63 (6)
10. Brazilian winger - scorer of the '65 European Cup final winner (4)
12. Mexican League champions nicknamed the Pumas (4)
14. Bundesliga club, VFL (6)
17. Sheffield United's former Watford striker (5)
18. Portuguese national coach recruited to Saint-Germain in 1991 (5)
19. Manager of the Soviet national side (9)

Clues Down

1. Fiorentina's Argentine striker, leader scorer of the '91 Copa America (9)
2. Chelsea's ex-Hartlepool United forward (5)
3. Corinthians 'keeper in Brazil's 1986 World Cup finals side (6)
4. Peruvian city - home of Alianza (4)
5. Home Farm's home park, shared with Shamrock Rovers from '88 (5)
8. City in which Wales lost 1-4 to Germany in 1991 (9)
11. Bobby Robson's former PSV assistant now in control at Feyenoord (6)
13. England centre-back voted the PFA's Young Player of 1987 (5)
15. Finn....-League of Ireland First Division club (5)
16. 70s' Polish winger with a record 103 full caps (4)

DECEMBER SOLUTION

Across 1.Ardiles 7.Zaire 8.Kubik 9.Elliott 10.Deschamps 15.Illgner 18.Ogris 19.Fiore 21.Stevens
Down 1.Askew 2.Dibble 3.Lake 4.Szalma 5.Vigo 6.Berti 11.Cannes 12.Pearce 13.Kieft 14.Vasas 16.Lyon 17.Rome

BY BOB PATEMAN AND MARK GLEESON

SENEGAL HERE

THE decision to increase the Nations' Cup finals to 12 countries raised quite a few eyebrows.

The expression "don't fix it if it ain't broken" has a lot of truth to it, and the old format was working pretty well.

Indeed, while the World Cup seems to change every four years, and not always for the better, the Nations' Cup had exactly the same format for 11 of the last 12 tournaments.

Eight sides playing in two venues was right for Africa. It gave most of the big sides a chance to be there, and every so often one of the outsiders could enjoy a combination of luck and inspiration to break through — for example Mozambique in 1986.

If the aim of a 12-team tournament was to leave nobody at home, then that has been achieved. Of the nine countries to have won this trophy, only Ethiopia and Sudan will not be making the trip to Senegal, and it has been a long time since either of those two achieved anything on the soccer pitch.

Indeed, of all the nations left behind, only Tunisia can claim to be a major soccer power on the continent.

Of the 12 teams going to Senegal, Kenya and Congo seem the rank outsiders, but even Congo have looked good in recent regional tournaments and could cause a surprise or two.

Generally it looks an open competition, with Egypt, Cameroon, Ghana, Algeria, Nigeria and hosts Senegal all in with a very real chance of taking the title.

The tournament is expected to be the most prestigious ever, and there will be comprehensive TV coverage following the African success at the World Cup.

The competition has even been brought forward to January in the hope of European clubs being more willing to release players then, rather than in March when the fight for honours or relegation starts to heat up.

Certainly with over 250 Africans appearing in the major European divisions the return of the expatriates will be a vital factor for virtually every side.

Exception

The one exception is Kenya, and the East African nation might prove to be the next source of cheap stars for the European market.

Even Egypt, who for so long could offer enough incentives to keep their players at home, have a small but important foreign-based contingent.

GROUP A
in Dakar

***Jan 12:** Senegal v Nigeria*
***Jan 14:** Kenya v Nigeria*
***Jan 16:** Senegal v Kenya*

KENYA

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1972; 1988; 1990.

Kenya are becoming regular finalists in major competitions and this is their third consecutive appearance in the Nations' Cup.

During the same spell they also have played at the African Games.

Their success has been partly due to the regional nature of qualifying competitions and the decline of neighbours Uganda and Tanzania.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Mozambique (a) 1-2; Sudan (a) 0-0; Mozambique (h) 1-0; Sudan (h) 2-1.

A group that included Mozambique and Sudan (Mauritius withdrew) was hardly going to present the toughest challenge, and Kenya might have been expected to have made an easier job in qualifying than they eventually did.

They lost their first two away games, won the two home matches, and edged through by scoring one goal more than their opponents.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: The unpredictable Peter Dawo has been the most famous Kenyan player of recent years. Other key figures are Henry Motego and goalkeeper Mujanji.

PREDICTION: Kenyan players tend to suffer from poor local competition. Being the best in East Africa is not the same as being the best in the whole of Africa.

Generally the players have a more amateurish attitude to the game and they are unlikely to make much impression on this year's competition.

At the same time they have some wonderfully skilful players, and they are not going to be pushed around.

An early exit, but perhaps not before they cause at least one surprise.

NIGERIA

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1963; 1976 (3rd); 1978 (3rd); 1980 (winners); 1982; 1984 (2nd); 1988 (2nd); 1990 (2nd).

Nigeria have missed only one of the past eight tournaments and have reached the final four times in this spell.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Togo (h) 3-0; Ghana (a) 0-1; Benin (a) 0-1; Burkina Faso (a) 1-1; Togo (a) 0-0; Ghana (h) 0-0; Benin (a) 3-0; Burkina Faso (h) 7-1.

Everything seemed to be going very much as planned, although points dropped at home to Ghana and away to Burkina Faso meant they never looked like topping the group.

Just as the competition was winding down Burkina Faso threw everything upside down by beating Ghana. So instead of going into the last match with a final place secured, Nigeria had to win.

There was a nasty moment at 1-1, but then Yekini came to the rescue, his four goals helping Nigeria to a 7-1 victory.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Yekini was the key man last time, and has been hitting the goals in the qualifying rounds.

Defender Stephen Keshi, now with Strasbourg, is a key player. Uche Okechukwu, one of the few Africans playing in Denmark, and Siasia Samson have lots of skill up front.

Richard Owubokiri has yet to make much of an impact on the international scene but he has been showing outstanding form with Boavista in Portugal and could be a real danger.

PREDICTION: Nigeria have been bubbling for quite a while. Even two years ago, when they were terribly let down by their professionals, they still reached the last two.

With the competition taking place on their doorstep they could take the title this time.

SENEGAL

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1965 (4th); 1968; 1986; 1990 (4th).

Senegal have a great reputation in regional championships, but took a long time to transfer this success to the Nations' Cup. They returned to the finals in 1986 after a gap of nearly 20 years and were unlucky to be edged out of the semi-finals.

Since then they have hovered around the big time, without really looking likely to seriously challenge for the trophy.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Qualified as hosts.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: There are about 30 Senegalese players in Europe — only Zaire and Nigeria have bigger ex-pat contingents — and the squad will largely come from this pool of professionals.

Souleumane Sane, who has been making a name in Germany, is the man of the moment. Veteran Jules Bocande another name, while that old war horse, Roger Mendy, is likely to anchor the defence.

Indeed this might be the problem. With the old faces keeping their places in Claude Le Roy's squad, young players have found it difficult to break through. Lamina Sanga, however, is one player worth keeping an eye one.

PREDICTION: Senegal, more than most sides, will be depending on stars returning from Europe, and presumably most will be anxious to make the trip back for the home tournament. A lot depends on goodwill by the clubs: in the last tournament Sane was called away for a match in Germany and did not return for the semi-finals.

With home advantage Senegal should do well, and a place in the final looks a distinct possibility.

GROUP B
in Dakar

***Jan 12:** Cameroon v Morocco*
***Jan 14:** Morocco v Zaire*
***Jan 16:** Cameroon v Zaire*

CAMEROON

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1970; 1982; 1984 (winners), 1986 (2nd); 1988 (winners); 1990.

Although they still rank behind Ghana in overall victories, Cameroon have been the outstanding African side of recent years. In 1988 they surprised everybody who had predicted their team was in decline by taking their second title. Two years ago they were distracted by the World Cup, but they should be back to their best in Senegal.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Mali (h) 0-0; v Sierria Leone (a) 1-1; v Guinea (a) 0-0; v Mali (a) 2-0; v Sierria Leone (h) 1-0; Guinea (h) 1-0.

Cameroon were going through post World Cup blues when this tournament kicked off and will be relieved to have taken the one qualifying spot in their group. Sierra Leone have been improving over the years and have a good record in regional tournaments, so the group was not a complete pushover.

After three drawn games Cameroon hit better form although they still left it to the last game to secure their place.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Francois Biyik is seen as the man to bring the goals, but although he is a wonderfully gifted player he tends to wander deep, and his best position might yet prove to be attacking midfield.

Oelle-Oelle missed the World Cup but this tiny striker still features in the team plans,

There is no problem at the back where Cameroon have a host of experienced defenders, ranging from the effective if rugged Onana to the more elegant Tataw.

Watch out most of all for Bertin Ebwele, who looks ready to take up the inspirational role that Kunde filled when at his best. And Roger Milla could make a farewell appearance — he is fit after a series of charity matches around the globe.

PREDICTION: The team have been unsettled since Italy, and they seem to lack a truly gifted midfielder to act as playmaker.

Anything other than winning the trophy will be considered a failure, and with every side trying that little bit harder against them a third title might be too much to hope for.

MOROCCO

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1972; 1976 (winners); 1980 (3rd); 1986 (4th); 1988 (4th).

Morocco were winners of this trophy back in 1976, but their record has not equalled their performance in other competitions.

Even in 1988 when they were home favourites they suffered a surprise defeat in the semi-finals. That started a decline in their fortunes and this tournament marks their return to top competition.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Niger 2-0 (h); Mauritania (h) 4-0; Ivory Coast (h) 3-1; Niger (a) 0-1; Mauritania (a) 2-0; Ivory Coast (a) 0-2.

Liberia, who might have caused a surprise or two withdrew, leaving Ivory Coast and Morocco needing only to beat lowly Niger and Mauritania to go through.

They did, although Morocco were not very impressive.

Three opening wins, including a 3-1 defeat of Ivory Coast, more or less confirmed their place in the finals but they then suffered the embarrassment of losing to Niger, one of the biggest upsets of the tournament.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Aziz Bouderbala, now with Lyon in France after a spell in Switzerland with Sion, is one of the last veterans of the 1986 World Cup, and might well play a central role. This however, is largely a unknown side.

Abelsalam Laghrissi, who has been on the fringe of events for several seasons, was suddenly propelled to star status with five goals during the qualifying tournament.

There is no lack of French-based professionals, such as El Haddaoui of Lens and Nacer Abdellah, to call on, while former African Player of the Year Mohamed Timoumi is still around, playing in Belgium.

PREDICTION: Morocco have not looked impressive recently and, with the team having only scraped into the finals, there is no indication that a new era is about to begin under German coach Olk Werner.

ZAIRE

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1965; 1968 (winners); 1970; 1972 (4th); 1974 (winners), 1976; 1988.

Zaire had a magnificent spell in the early 1970s, but never recovered from a disastrous appearance in the 1974 World Cup finals, and went 12 years without playing in the Nations' Cup finals.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Tanzania (h) 2-1; Uganda (a) 1-2; Gabon (h) 2-1; Tanzania (a) 0-1; Uganda (h) 1-0; Gabon (a) 0-0.

Group eight turned out to be desperately close. Zaire travelled to Gabon for their last game needing a draw to go through on goal difference. They did it, although the riots that followed left two dead. It might have been closer if Uganda — impressively led by striker Musisi — could have won their last match in Tanzania.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Eugene Kabongo, now with Bastia in Corsica, is still the best known and although entering the veteran stage, the most likely to score goals. Watch out also for Mukanya and Danny Ngombo.

PREDICTION: Outsiders, affected by political turmoil at home, but a tough team who are capable of a surprise or two.

WE COME

With all this attention the Nations' Cup is a perfect showpiece for African football, but already the competition has produced more than its share of controversy.

Civil unrest caused Ethiopia and Liberia to withdraw from the qualifying rounds, while Mauritius and Seychelles also dropped out for financial reasons.

Once the games started we had referees not turning up in Zimbabwe, political protest in Togo, and stadium riots that left spectators dead in Gabon.

Perhaps the most controversial game was Mali v Cameroon, where the behaviour of the home fans led to the match being abandoned a few minutes from the end.

We remember, too, that four years ago in Morocco the competition turned into a bitter racial clash between the two Africas, Black and Arab, and in Algeria two years ago the matches were played in the shadow of the pending World Cup finals, and proved an altogether limp affair.

Now, however, the increased field indicates more excitement, with nearly all the competitors having some chance of lifting the trophy after the final on Sunday January 26.

The 12 competitors have been divided into four groups of three, who play each other: the top two go through to the quarter-finals, decided on a straight knockout basis.

LATER ROUNDS

QUARTER-FINALS *(Dakar)*
Jan 19: First Group A v second Group B (Match 13)
Jan 19: First Group B v second Group A (Match 14)
Jan 20: First Group C v second Group D (Match 15)
Jan 20: First Group D v second Group C (Match 16).

SEMI-FINALS *(Dakar)*
Jan 23: Winner Match 13 v Winner Match 16 (Match 17)
Jan 23: Winner Match 14 v Winner Match 15 (Match 18).

THIRD PLACE *(Dakar)*
Jan 25: Loser Match 17 v Loser Match 18.

FINAL *(Dakar)*
Jan 26: Winner Match 17 v Winner Match 18.

GROUP C
in Ziquinchor

***Jan 13:** Algeria v Ivory Coast*
***Jan 15:** Congo v Ivory Coast*
***Jan 17:** Algeria v Congo*

ALGERIA

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1968, 1980 (2nd), 1982 (4th); 1984 (3rd), 1986; 1988 (3rd), 1990 (winners).

This is Algeria's seventh consecutive tournament, and they have got at least as far as the semi-finals on every occasion except 1986.

Two years ago they finally managed to secure the trophy.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: qualify as holders.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: El Quazani emerged two years ago as one of the most exciting players to appear on the African stage for several seasons. He will be heavily marked this time.

Oudjani scored the vital goal in the last final and could be the main hope for goals.

Madjer, inspiration of the 1990 triumph, is now on the Algerian Federation staff and has played little football of late, but still has class.

PREDICTION: Algeria's win two years ago was achieved with home advantage. They also produced a crop of exciting new young players and will be tough to dislodge. A lot depends on how they respond to the conditions in West Africa. If they settle down during the first couple of games they could go on to do well, but the feeling is that they will not be too happy in Senegal.

CONGO

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1968; 1972 (winners); 1974 (4th); 1978.

Congo enjoyed a golden spell in the early 1970s when central Africa dominated the sport, and they won this title in 1972. The standard of football in the region has since fallen behind that of north and west Africa since then.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Malawi (a) 1-0; Zimbabwe (h) 2-0; Malawi (h) 2-1; Zimbabwe (a) 2-2.

The Seychelles dropped out to leave this as a three-team group, with Congo, Zimbabwe and Malawi looking more or less evenly matched. Congo got off to a perfect start, beating Malawi away, and went to Zimbabwe for their final game knowing a point would be enough.

They achieved this with a dramatic injury-time goal in a game that ended 2-2.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Congo are the unknown squad of these games but Makita is a dangerous striker and links well with Ange N'Gapy, who plays for Ghent. Ndomba is another talented striker.

PREDICTION: Outsiders and clearly unlikely to win the trophy, but anybody underestimating them might be in for an unpleasant surprise. Could cause a major upset in the first stage. The coach, Noel Pepe Minga was in the 1972 winning team.

IVORY COAST

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1965 (3rd); 1968 (3rd); 1970 (4th); 1974; 1980; 1984; 1986 (3rd); 1988; 1990.

Ivory Coast were one of the earliest supporters of this tournament, making their debut in 1965. They enjoyed early success reaching the '68 and '70 semi-finals thanks to the goals of the legendary Laurent Pokou.

They were disappointed to do so badly at home in 1984, but since then have qualified for five consecutive finals.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Mauritania (h) 2-0; Niger (a) 1-0; Morocco (a) 1-3; Mauritania w/o; Niger (h) 1-0; Morocco (h) 2-1.

The two places in this group were decided early, with Ivory Coast and Morocco both scoring decisive wins over Mauritania and Niger.

Ivory Coast finished top, as much due to Morocco's surprise defeat in Niger as with the West African victory in the final game.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Fofana, a boy wonder back in 1984, is still around and still the main hope.

After a good start, and another fine display in '86, he has faded and has never really imposed himself on this tournament.

Abdoulaye Traore was another one-time boy wonder who is knocking in the goals even though he is now a veteran.

Another striker, Michel Bassoule, did well in the World Youth Tournament during the summer, and looks a fine prospect.

If Ivory Coast are to reach the second round they will need one or two new stars to emerge. Watch out for Didier Otokore, Obou Arsene and Sie Donald.

PREDICTION: Some moments of magic, but unlikely to mount a really serious challenge.

GROUP D
in Ziquinchor

***Jan 13:** Egypt v Zambia*
***Jan 15:** Ghana v Zambia*
***Jan 17:** Egypt v Ghana*

EGYPT

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1957 (winners); 1959 (winners); 1962 (2nd); 1963 (3rd); 1970 (3rd); 1974 (3rd); 1976 (4th); 1980 (4th); 1984 (4th); 1986 (winners); 1988, 1990.

Egypt's 13th tournament. They have won the trophy on three occasions, although two of these victories came in the early days when there was a far smaller entry. Since winning on home soil in 1986 their performances have been disappointing.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Ethiopia (a) 2-0 (later withdrew); Chad (a) 0-0; Tunisia (a) 2-2; Chad (h) 5-1; Tunisia (h) 2-2.

Ethiopia withdrew leaving Egypt and Tunisia to fight it out.

Either side might have taken the lead by snatching a victory from their visit to Chad, but both ended up coming home with just a single point.

Egypt had the advantage of playing in Tunis first, and their draw gave them a moral advantage. In addition their 5-1 victory over Chad in Cairo gave them the upper hand in goal difference.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Providing Egypt can get the release of their small but influential core of overseas players they should do well. Basically the same squad who played in the World Cup, with Shoubeir, Ramzy and the Hassan brothers the big names, but with Mahmoud Sohari back as coach after Dietrich Weise's departure.

Veteran Rabia Yassin should approach the 20-game mark in this tournament, and would have been chasing a Nations' Cup appearance record if Egypt had sent a full team to Algeria two years ago.

PREDICTION: Egypt lost out in the World Cup by over-estimating their opponents. In the Nations' Cup they often seem to under-estimate them.

This side is a good mixture of professional veterans and rising young stars, many with World Cup experience. One of the favourites.

GHANA

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1963 (winners); 1965 (winners), 1968 (2nd); 1970 (2nd); 1978 (winners); 1980; 1982 (winners); 1984.

Four victories in these championships remain a record, but Ghana have not won since 1982, and have not played in the finals since 1984.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Nigeria (h) 1-0; Togo (a) 1-0; Burkina Faso (h) 2-0; Benin (h) 4-0; Nigeria (a) 0-0; Togo (h) 2-0; Burkina Faso (a) 1-2.

The team started with four straight wins and, despite a late defeat, were never in trouble, finishing top of the group.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Abedi Pele, who looks likely to be voted the African Player of the Year, is a world-class star, and will be returning to the tournament that first saw him emerge as a boy wonder ten years ago.

Anderlecht star Nii Lampety is rapidly becoming an equally big name, while Anthony Yeboah has been making the headlines in Germany.

Prince Opoku, who plays in Belgium with Beerschot, is another key figure in the team and the best hope for goals.

Of the local-based players Ablade Kumah of Hearts of Oak, might be the man to add bite to the middle.

PREDICTION: Ghana start as one of the favourites — mainly on the reputation of some of their big stars.

They have only a handful of European-based players, so the core of the squad will come from the domestic league. Whether the home-based men are up to standard and can get along with the returning professionals, will decide Ghana's fate.

In this year's African club competitions Ghana were represented by Hearts of Oak and Asante, but they crashed out against mediocre opposition. This might be a sign that domestic football in Ghana is not as strong as it was. The coach, Otto Pfister, has taken over the senior side after his success with the Under-17s.

ZAMBIA

PREVIOUS FINALS: 1974 (2nd); 1978; 1982 (3rd); 1986; 1990 (3rd).

Zambia have a good record in this competition, reaching the semi-finals on three occasions.

ROUTE TO THE FINALS: Swaziland (h) 5-0; Madagascar (a) 0-0; Angola (a) 2-1; Swaziland (a) 1-2; Madagascar (h) 2-1; Angola (h) 1-0.

Angola, who were expected to offer the most resistance, faded quickly, while Zambia and Madagascar matched each other point for point. Zambia held the advantage of a draw in Madagascar — always a difficult trip.

That, however, was swept aside when Swaziland beat them 2-1. So Zambia needed victories in their last two games — which they achieved, although not without some extremely tense moments.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: Coach Sam Ndlovu's hopes depend on getting some of his European-based stars back for the finals.

Charles Musonda of Anderlecht is perhaps the key. Webby Chikabala played well two years ago and Wisdom Chansa is also vital.

Kalusha Bwalya has done little in international tournaments since destroying Italy in the Olympics, but cannot be under-estimated.

PREDICTION: Zambia are now hardened veterans of this tournament. If they put their best side out they should do well.

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP HONOURS LIST

1957	Egypt	1970	Sudan	1980	Nigeria
1959	Eygpt	1972	Congo	1982	Ghana
1962	Ethiopia	1974	Zaire	1984	Cameroon
1963	Ghana	1976	Morocco	1986	Egypt
1965	Ghana	1978	Ghana	1988	Cameroon
1968	Zaire			1990	Algeria

18th AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

Senegal 92

MORE NEWS FROM AFRICA

SAM PUTS THE COACHING CASE

SAM NDLOVU, the Zambia coach, wants his players to be more expressive and less tactically bound when they compete at the African Nations' Cup.

"I don't want them to play like robots," he says. "They must feel like they are liberated."

Ndlovu took the country to third place at the last finals, in Algeria in 1990, and was in charge when the team shocked Italy with a 4-1 win at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

"There should be no major pressure on the team, so they will be free to play with individual expression," he says. "There are so many gifted players in the squad, and if they can all put it together in Senegal then we have a chance of winning."

At the same time, Ndlovu will be on a mission of his own at the finals. He says he wanted to prove that African coaches can succeed in a tournament where most sides have Europeans in charge.

"I want to prove myself, to show that I can bring along a team to a tournament and that they can do well. Senegal is certainly a big forum to show off a thing or two and prove that African coaches have got what it takes. And we can also learn there."

Ndlovu believes he and his African counterparts are not taken seriously enough by football administrators on the continent, who still feel that only European or South American coaches can bring success.

"Even the supporters are not really convinced that we can do the job," he says. "We have to achieve the results to make them believers."

His will be a difficult job, combining locally-based talent with the growing band of Zambian players competing in European professional leagues.

But Ndlovu says there is not much of a difference in the standard of talent between the Zambian-based players and the likes of Kalusha Bwalya (PSV Eindhoven) and Charles Musonda of Belgian champions Anderlecht. "It's really just a question of the confidence that the players have built up for themselves from their experience of playing in Europe."

Ndlovu . . . has a point to prove.

A new tournament for 'second' clubs

THE Nations' Cup is occupying most minds just now, but a new club competition is taking shape as well.

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup, will feature teams finishing second in their respective national leagues, and will start next year.

A trophy has been presented by Nigerian businessman Balshorun Abiola, who once owned a football team known as Abiola Babes.

In the words of CAF president Issa Hayatou of Cameroon, the tournament will give African players more competitive matches and will help their development.

The continent has earned a third place in the World Cup finals at the expense of Europe, partly on the strength of Cameroon's performance in reaching the quarter-finals in Italy last year.

Meanwhile, next year's Club Champions' Cup and Cup-winners' Cup start on February 7, with the preliminary rounds.

BOOTH BANKS ON GHANA

BY BERNARD BALE

WATCH OUT for Ghana! That's the word from Dave Booth, manager of the Ashanti Goldfields team in West Africa.

Booth, former Grimsby, Darlington and Peterborough manager, points to Ghana's recent triumph at the Under-17 World Cup tournament in Italy as an indication of things to come.

"That was no fluke", he says. "I know most of the lads who were playing — some were from my own club. The whole of Africa means business but Ghana particularly want to do well.

"Qualifying for the World Cup means a lot to them, and winning the Nations' Cup is one way of virtually guaranteeing a World Cup place."

Booth . . . Ghana are buzzing.

Booth adds: "Ashanti are one of the wealthiest clubs in Ghana. We're based in Abuassi, about five and a half hours from Accra.

"The people couldn't be friendlier and the game means a lot to them. They have all the passion of Merseyside, Madrid and Milan, plus a bit more.

"Sam Onah is the managing director of Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, who own the club, but he's a typical fan. He loves football, and he knows his stuff.

"He will often come and sit on the bench with me to get closer to the action.

"He is the real driving force behind the club and thanks to him we're getting a new £4 million stadium, now almost complete. It has fantastic facilities, not only for football but for virtually every sport.

"Bobby Charlton is bringing an international team here for a special match to celebrate the opening."

Booth goes on: "As well as managing the team I am involved in the administration — even the commercial department. That's how things are done here. You are expected to work hard but you are appreciated.

"We get crowds of up to 9,000 and they are really noisy. Football is their main interest and that's the story throughout Ghana.

"There are lots of good players here and there is bound to be a lot of interest from Europe as they progress. I don't want to lose too many.

"As professionals they earn £40-45 a month. That doesn't sound a lot but the cost of living is very different here and that sort of salary is high compared with miners and others.

"Soccer is definitely buzzing in Ghana and there is a lot of determination that the national team will get to the next World Cup. The chance to go to America is a real dream for them. If they get there anything can happen.

"Cameroon was just the tip of the African iceberg — if you can have such a thing."

Milla fears a slave market

THE names of Gargo, Duah and Kufour are barely known in Italy at present. But all that could change.

At the same time, the future of the three young men is posing problems for their homeland and for their adopted country.

The three were members of the Ghanaian team who won the Under-17 World Cup in August. Now they "belong" to Torino.

And their presence in Italy must be sending a shiver down the spines of officials preparing for the African Nations' Cup. Who next, they wonder?

The man responsible for the transfers of Gargo, Duah and Kufour to Turin is Domenico Ricci, an agent from Rome. But the move has been received with scepticism in some quarters on both sides of the Mediterranean.

Inexperienced

The purpose of acquiring players at such a tender age is not altogether clear. It is a big risk for employer and employee.

There is little doubt that players will improve from European training methods, but how will a child cope far away from his family, in a country alien to him?

Torino's president, Gian Mauro Borsano, has not convinced the Italian Federation of his intentions in bringing the young Africans to Italy.

Antonio Matarrese, president of the FIGC, describes Borsano as "cunning" and fears the eventual exploitation of these youngsters . . . and possibly of others.

Gargo, Duah and Kufour are not eligible to play for Torino's youth team because they are too old. They are too inexperienced to play for the first team, and the club already have their full quota of overseas players permitted in the Italian League.

So Torino will seek to "park" them in amateur teams, enabling the club to assess their progress to the point of making them professionals. Then they will either play for Torino or, more probably, be sold.

Current Italian law is that only one overseas player is permitted in an amateur side, he must have a minimum of six months residence in Italy, and be a student or have an occupation.

To abide by the regulations, Torino's president has employed the three Ghanaians as errand boys in one of his offices.

They will earn close to £1,500 pounds a month . . . and will be training full time with the Torino squad.

Roger Milla, the Cameroon veteran star of Italia '90, disapproves of the way both Italy and Ghana are conducting their affairs.

"I fear a type of slavery," he says. "One can't take adolescents away from their families and insert them quickly into professional structures, even more so in countries completely different from their countries of origin."

Milla wants exiled youths to continue with their studies while

Present boss Rinus Michels is growing no younger. He would no doubt welcome a move back "upstairs" after the European Championship defence in Sweden in June.

He would also, one suspects, welcome the opportunity to resume the partnership with Cruyff which — with both men in different roles — took Holland to the 1974 World Cup Final.

But can the KNVB afford the cost of luring Cruyff back from his millionaire commitment to Barcelona? Officials must think so or they would not have gone public.

Duties

Cruyff's current Catalan contract takes him up to the summer of 1993. But that, in itself, is not necessarily a stumbling block. Holland have a tradition of part-time managers, brought in for the big event — as Michels was in 1974 after Frantisek Fadrhonc had done the spadework; as Ernst Happel was in 1978 after Jan Zwartkruis had paved the way; as Leo Beenhakker was in 1990 after Thys Libregts had steered Holland through the qualifiers.

Michels has an able lieutenant in Dick Advocaat. He could no doubt carry on the day-to-day duties, with Cruyff — heart permitting — flying in and out for matches.

Then, if Holland are well-poised by the summer of 1993, Cruyff could well take the national job on full-time for the last, most important, year.

Significantly, he has not ruled the idea out of court.

Cruyff said: "It's nice that the KNVB should have thought of me. Holland have a good team and, of course, I know almost all the players from having worked with them at one stage or another."

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK

● CONCACAF, that most tongue-twisting of acronyms, is running out of time. The headquarters of the Central and North American Confederation has shifted to New York; soon the name will be changed too.

● AMERICAN TV networks are so unimpressed by the commercial value of World Cup coverage, the organisers may BUY screen time from CBS. Latest thinking is that USA '94 will buy screen time for the 11 weekend games but sell the other 41 weekday matches to the more eager cable networks. Europeans see this as the tail wagging the dog; the Americans see it as merely pragmatic. Alan Rothenberg sees advantages in buying time: the organisers could appoint their own directors and lay down their own guidelines on advertising control.

● FUTURE World Cup hosts did not miss the chance to promote their case. The French federation (Target 1998) staged a lavish media reception while Japan (Target 2002) spread hundreds of booklets extolling their virtues around Madison Square Garden.

● THE IMG group, commercially dominant force in managerial, promotional and tele-visual spheres in tennis and golf, may be ready for a change of heart. IMG has generally steered clear of soccer. I understand they are to test the water in a big way by signing up Italy star Robert Baggio for a package to reach its promotional climax in 1994. Scotland permitting, of course . . . to say nothing of Portugal or Switzerland.

● USA '94 displayed typical American business sense in obtaining "up front" money for their schemes. All the 27 communities which applied to host matches in the finals had to accompany their bid with a $3 million deposit. And that's just for starters. In addition cities must pay up $40,000 dollars for first-round matches, rising to $225,000 for matches in all stages of the finals. Unlucky applicants will have their money refunded. But it's no doubt been earning plenty of interest in the meantime.

● Late February or early March will see the 1994 finals venues named. In public, everyone talks about 12 centres. In private, serious discussion centres on just eight. That would mean comparatively minor logistical adjustments but a major saving in expenditure. Watch this space.

● FIFA'S executive committee meetings decided the following: To admit Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as provisional members, taking FIFA's family to 168; To refuse, pending further study, membership applications from Ukraine, Georgia and Croatia; To study possible statute changes to prevent government control of national associations; To uphold the World Cup ban on Chile; To lift the ban on international matches in Kuwait and Lebanon; To maintain the home match ban on Iraq but permit Iraq to re-enter activity outside its own territory; To confirm the international competitive suspension on Brazilian club Flamengo; To permit the Asian confederation to organise a four-team competition between the regional national team champions of Africa, South America, CONCACAF and Asia; To confirm the use of seats-only at all World Cup matches forthwith — both in the qualifiers and the finals; To delay a decision on the 1991 Fair Play Award; To announce on July 1, 1992, the identity of the hosts for the 1998 World Cup (candidates are France, Switzerland and Morocco).

Roberto Baggio . . . the Italian star has been signed up by the IMG group for a promotional package.

WILL PLAY THE NAME GAME

EUROPE'S political upheavals will be Good News for UEFA politicians in the long run. The World Cup draw brought that into an ever-sharper focus.

Formally, it is the "Soviet Union" who were drawn as top seeds in European Group 5. But will a "Soviet Union" still exist by the time the qualifiers begin in earnest?

And what about their Yugoslav group rivals?

The European Championship finals in Sweden in June could be the Soviet Union's last fling. Ukraine is following Georgia in pursuit of political independence and Ukraine's footballers must follow the Georgians out of the Soviet sporting sphere.

And what about the Yugsolavia which will face whatever remains of the USSR? Will it still be Yugoslavia as currently drawn on the FIFA map, or will Croatia and Slovenia have broken away?

The key to such uncertainty is held by the United Nations here in New York. UN acceptance of a nation's political independence is the essential pre-requisite for FIFA entry.

Departure

It's the snowball at the top of the hill, all ready to roll.

UEFA is gaining the three Baltic states; Ukraine and Georgia are around the corner; perhaps Croatia and Slovenia.

That means extra votes within FIFA, votes which could seriously weigh in the balance of power.

The prospective departure of Ukraine from the Soviet Union raised faint hopes in Italy that the Soviet Union would have to withdraw from the European finals — on the grounds that it would not exist by then. Italy were, of course, their qualifying runners-up.

That is improbable since the soccer fate of the Soviet Union will not be open to real question until Ukraine are admitted in their own right.

However, when the Soviet Union has disintegrated, will the Russian federation merely take over their place or will Russia need to apply to join FIFA as a new member? In that case, what will happen to the FIFA vice-presidency which the Soviet Union was guaranteed on joining the FIFA fold after the last war?

Asia

By Paul **MOON**, Bob **PATEMAN** and Debabrata **CHOWDHURY**

GAMES GO TO MANILA

MANILA, which has received more than its share of bad headlines recently, will stage the 16th South-East Asian Games.

These are a multi-sport event which create considerable excitement in the region.

Although no Asian soccer powers are involved, several of the most rapidly-developing nations, such as Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, will be there, and might well be the teams that will become a major force over the next decade.

An official claimed that the Philippines did not have enough suitable grounds for the 14-match tournament, but latest reports are that the tournament will go ahead on condition that Philippines settle their debts with FIFA.

Eight teams have entered and there will be the chance to see how Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Vietnam perform as they continue their return to the international scene.

SINGAPORE

THE TEAM scored a notable victory over Indonesia in a friendly match that both sides were using as a warm-up for the SEA games.

Tokijan scored the two goals for Singapore, but it was a match that might have decided the future of three goalkeepers.

Indonesia's Eddy Harto crashed into a post and had to leave the field with an injury that might cost him a place in the Games.

At the other end Abdul Malek gave a fine performance that might edge veteran David Lee out of the team.

INDONESIA

THE GALATAMA (national semi-professional soccer league) are likely to readmit foreign players.

The hiring of overseas players was stopped in 1983, but now, with attendances low and standards declining, the presence of European or South Americans may bring new life to the league.

The league had little tradition of using foreign players. Pardedetex, now disbanded, were perhaps the most active in the transfer market.

In the eight years since foreigners were banned the economy has taken off, and this time the top clubs might be able to afford better known players.

Indeed Indonesia has the potential to rival Hong Kong or Malaysia in attracting quality European and Australian players.

The latest edition of the Indonesian Amateur Club Championship was won by Perstu from North Sumatra. Perbanas of Jakarta were second and North Sulawesi champions Unoson third.

Three imports help in triple triumph

THREE British footballers played key roles as East Bengal beat Border Security Force to take the 1991 Durand Cup at New Delhi's Ambedkar Stadium, their third successive Durand Cup win.

Peter McGuire, Steven Prindiville and Neil Edmonds (above, l to r) joined East Bengal, the Calcutta champions, to plug the gaps after top Bangladeshi players, Munna, Ghouse and Aslam, returned home.

Prindiville, who has been with Leicester, Chesterfield and Mansfield, is 23. Edmonds, 22, has been with Oldham, Rochdale, and Karlskrona in Sweden. Maguire, also 22, has been with Leeds and Huddersfield.

East Bengal were favourites for the trophy, but a slip by keeper Mukherjee cost them a goal, to Nirmaljit Singh.

The equaliser came when midfielder Tushar Rakshit curled a superb shot past Bibhas Saha to make it 1-1.

There was no further scoring, even in extra time, and the match went to a shoot-out, which East Bengal won 4-2.

The tournament was played in two groups of four teams, on a league basis, the top two in each going through to knockout semi-finals.

East Bengal finished second to BSF in their group, the pair drew 1-1, with Mahindra and Indian Army qualifying from the second section.

In the semi-finals, East Bengal beat Mahindra 3-0, and BSF had a 4-0 stroll against the Army team.

The Durand Cup tournament, founded by Sir Mortimer Durand in 1888, is one of the world's oldest soccer contests.

East Bengal are the fourth club to win the trophy three years in a row, following Highland Light Infantry and Black Watch in the 19th century and Mohun Bagan, who achieved trebles in 1964-64-65 and 1984-85-86.

THE 91st Rovers Cup in Bombay was won by Mohun Bagan — their 12th victory since 1955.

A goal by Nigerian striker Chima Okerie, proved enough to dispose of Mohammedan Sporting, after the clubs had drawn 0-0 in the quarter-finals, which were played on a league basis between two groups of four.

Mohun Bagan finished top of their group and then defeated Sesa Goa, second in the other group, 2-1 in their semi-final. Mohammedan Sporting were second in their group and defeated East Bengal in the semi-final, 4-3 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

Mohammedan Sporting also lost in the final of the 11th Federation Cup in Bangladesh, on penalties after a 0-0 90-minute stalemate.

They scored only twice from the spot and conceded four goals to the outsiders, Brothers Union.

MSC had qualified for the final via a shoot-out, 5-4 against Abahani Krira Chakra after a 1-1 draw.

Brothers went through with an easy 3-0 defeat of Fakirerpur YC.

JOHOR DO THE DOUBLE

JOHOR achieved the rare double of winning the Malaysian League and Cup, with Yugoslavian Ervin Boban scoring a hat-trick in the final.

With the League already assured Johor were the pace setters in group B of the knock-out stage until things started to go wrong in the fifth round. A 2-1 defeat to Selangor put them into third spot, and left them needing a win in their last game against Terengganu, who knew a point would be enough.

Nasir Yusoff dived to head home after six minutes, so Johor could relax a little.

They kept a close check on Terengganu's Dutch star, Marlon van der Sander, and the game was secured near the end when Australian Abbas Saad hit the second goal.

On the same evening Selangor held top spot in the group with a 1-1 draw at Negri Sembilan.

Secured

In group A, Kuala Lumpur went into the last game two points ahead and finished with a 2-2 draw against Perak.

Pahang also secured a semi-final spot with a 2-0 victory away to Sarawak. Playing in Borneo is never easy, but goals from Fandi Ahmad and Riduan Raafer decided the outcome.

Selangor scored a decisive 4-0 home victory in the first leg of the semi-finals against Pahang, and added a couple more goals in the return.

In contrast Johor had to fight all the way to overcome Kuala Lumpur 1-0.

Johor went into the final without their midfield player, Abbas Saad, who had a three-match ban. Despite that, Johor went ahead — watched by 40,000 spectators — when Alistair Edwards set up the first goal for Boban.

Selangor equalised through Mohd Gani Ali, but Boban put his side ahead on the hour with a lovely touch from a long through ball, and then completed his hat-trick with a curling free-kick.

In the League, Johor had finished one point ahead of Pahang, with five more points covering the next six.

Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Keith Burkinshaw was flown in for a six-week coaching stint with Pahang, but still the club finished empty-handed.

There were also shocks at the bottom. Last season's Malaysia Cup winners, Kedah, were relegated with Kelantan.

Negri Sembilan and Sarawak were promoted to the top division.

CHRISTCHURCH IN CONTROL

NEW ZEALAND: Christchurch United became the most successful club in the country's soccer history when winning both the major domestic competitions.

They now have six League Championships and six Chatham Cup victories — Mount Wellington have six and five respectively.

The season's early stages gave little indication of the triumphs to come. As the programme approached halfway, the Rams were just one among several teams handily placed behind Manurewa. Then a run of 13 successive wins carried them well clear.

Miramar Rangers, aided by 22 goals from League top scorer John Murphy (a former Northern Ireland youth international), finished second, nine points adrift.

Christchurch then completed their second double (the first was 16 years ago) when overcoming Wellington United 2-1 in the Cup Final.

Superb solo efforts by Alun Evans provided Christchurch with a two-goal advantage as the match entered its last half hour, but a defensive mix-up ended with Mike Fullen's own goal and giving the Wellingtonians, playing in their home city, a glimmer of hope.

Wellington, however, were unable to squeeze out another goal, and the Rams, appearing in their fifth successive final, gained an unexpectedly hard-earned victory.

The man of the match award, the Jack Batty Memorial Trophy, went to Wellington midfielder Dave Woodard. This was the only major individual honour to elude Christchurch's Mike McGarry — Player of the Year, Players' Player of the Year, and the national league's "best and fairest" trophy.

To round off a remarkable season for Christchurch, midfielder Laurence Fitzpatrick was voted Pepsi Young Player of the Year, and Martin Stewart was acknowledged as Coach of the Year.

Papatoetoe, Northern Regional League champions, defeated their Central Regional League counterparts, Wellington Olympic, in a play-off, and will return to the National League.

Southern Regional winners Pacific Park Dunedin declined to participate.

Olympic, a club who draw support almost exclusively from the capital's Greek community, appeared set to make their National League debut when winning the first leg 4-1. But Papatoetoe won 3-0 at home and gained promotion because of Richardson's away goal.

They replace Gisborne City, bottom of the 1991 Winfield League.

Christchurch's Mike McGarry (red shirt) won three individual trophies this season.

WORLD SOCCER TACTICS: Indian High Ball Game

S. America

RIO CLUBS FIND THE GOAL AGAIN

FOOTBALL in Rio has had a remarkable transformation in the past few months.

The ultra-defensive tactics, 0-0 draws and 70-foul matches which had become the norm at the Maracana have been replaced with attractive, attacking football and a goal average of 2.36 goals per game, comparing favourably with the major European championships.

The cause of the change can be summarised in one word: Edinho.

He took charge of Fluminense, his first job as a manager, in July. Within three months they had won the first phase of the Rio Championship and secured their place in the final, losing only once in 11 games.

At the same time Edinho also caused one minor revolution, abandoning the fear-ridden tactics which have become so common here recently and opting instead for attack.

Flamengo and Botafogo quickly followed suit and the second phase turned into an absorbing battle to see who would join Fluminense in the final.

Of the big four (Flamengo, Fluminense, Vasco and Botafogo), only Vasco opted to stay in their defensive shell, and they were made to pay the price. Despite the presence of Bebeto, Geovani and Bismarck, they were soon virtually out of the competition.

In the space of two weeks, Maracana fans saw two pulsating matches — the 3-3 draw between Vasco and Botafogo (victory was Vasco's only hope, so they were forced to attack this time) and the 2-2 draw between Fluminense and Botafogo.

Circle

Edinho, who was captain of Brazil in the 1986 World Cup, is happy to acknowledge the impact his presence has caused.

"This is important for me because I came here intent on imposing my ideas and ending that vicious circle where the manager's only interest is to hang on to his job," he told *WORLD SOCCER.*

"I put an end to all this. I sent everyone into attack, and others have followed. This has put new life into football and I am very satisfied that people have recognised this.

"Brazilian football has been on the way down because there is no entertainment. It is too defensive and this has put off the public."

Edinho is a man with strong views, and is not afraid to speak his mind. This is what he has to say about:

Brazilian football directors: "There are too many people who only think of personal and political interests. It's bad for football and causes problems."

The lack of talented Brazilian players: "We don't have stars like Zico any more because of what happens in the junior teams, where the trainers fail to correct things that need to be put right. So by the time they reach the professional stage, the players have bad habits.

"It's a problem of people working with junior players who, in reality, are incapable of doing so."

Edinho . . . the accent is on attack.

On the difficulties of being Brazil manager: "These are just excuses because if a manager goes to the national team, finds he has no time for training and accepts this, then he is to blame as well.

"It's an easy job — the people who make it impossible are the people who do it."

This side of Edinho's character has caused him trouble in the past. In 1989, while still a player, he was forced to leave Fluminense after fighting with club director Jorge Neto in the dressing room.

Neto accused the players of lack of effort after a defeat by Flamengo. Edinho, the captain, protested, and the argument ended in punches. Soon afterwards Edinho was transferred to Gremio.

Seven years earlier, Edinho had taken Fluminense to court over his transfer to an Italian club, Udinese. The Italians had agreed on a fee of 500,000 dollars and when Fluminense tried to put it up to 700,000, Edinho took out a lawsuit. Udinese defused the row by agreeing to pay the difference. Edinho — real name Edino Nazareth Filho — always had a love-hate relationship with Fluminense.

He arrived at the club as a 14-year-old in 1969. After a five-year apprenticeship, he turned professional in 1974, playing in the same team as the even more hot-tempered Rivelino.

In 1975 Fluminense won the Rio Championship, a feat they repeated the following year.

Edinho began his career in the gold shirt by playing in the Brazil team who won the gold medal at the Mexico City Panamerican Games in 1975.

A year later he played in the Montreal Olympics, but Brazil could manage only a disappointing fourth place, losing to Poland in the semi-finals.

His first appearance in the full Brazil team was in a World Cup qualifying match against Colombia — and he could not have got off to a better start. Brazil won 6-0, two weeks after drawing 0-0 in Bogota.

Career

Edinho was selected for the 1978 World Cup squad as a left-back and played against Sweden, Spain and Argentina. In the 1982 World Cup, he was reserve to Luisinho and played only once, in the 4-0 thrashing of New Zealand. Immediately after the competition he went to play with Udinese.

In 1986, he had his best World Cup performance, captaining his country, playing in all five matches and scoring a memorable goal against Poland. But the run ended sadly, with Brazil being knocked out in the quarter-finals by France, on penalties.

Edinho has not played for Brazil since. He ended his international career with 46 caps and three goals.

The year after Mexico he returned to Brazil, but to his bitter disappointment, Fluminense did not want him back. Instead, he went to rivals Flamengo, and helped them to the 1987 Brazilian Championship.

He finally went back to Fluminense the next year, but they again fell out, and after a short spell with Gremio, he abandoned his playing career in 1989.

As far as managing is concerned Edinho says: "I'm enjoying it, and it's easier than I imagined. There are a lot of small problems which sometimes annoy me a little bit, but they are natural problems which affect any manager."

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

JUNIOR LEADS PITCH PROTEST

FORMER World Cup midfielder Junior launched an angry attack on the state of Brazilian pitches, after being injured during Flamengo's match at Americano in the Rio Championship.

Junior had to be substituted 20 minutes from the end, after he twisted an ankle in one of the many holes in the pitch.

He claimed that many of the smaller clubs in the Rio Championship deliberately kept their pitches in bad condition to give them better chances of securing better results.

One newspaper went further and said that some clubs dig extra holes in the grass before a game against one of the big teams.

Americano, Goytacaz, the two Americas and Itaperuna in particular are notorious for having pitches with more holes than a hedgehog's sleeping bag.

But don't expect Junior's protests to result in any action from the authorities. The small clubs keep Eduardo Viana, president of Rio's federation, in power with their votes, and Viana is an Americano fanatic.

As for the football, Botafogo lead the second phase of the competition on goal difference from Flamengo after being struck by the "Barnet syndrome." In eight unbeaten games they scored 24 goals and conceded 12. Their results included a 5-1 thrashing of Sao Cristovao (managed by Jairzinho, no less), a 4-1 win over Americano, 3-2 victories over Bangu and Campo Grande, a 3-3 draw with Vasco and a 2-2 draw with Fluminense.

An unknown striker who travels around Rio by bus was Botafogo's hero. Chicao, who has never played for Brazil at full international level and has spent most of his career in the football backwater of Parana, scored 12 goals in eight matches, including an extraordinary sequence of three hat-tricks in four games, after joining Botafogo on loan from Coritiba.

Candidates

With three rounds of matches left, Botafogo and Flamengo both had 14 points, followed by Vasco da Gama with 10.

Campo Grande, who at one stage looked likely candidates for a final place after beating Vasco and drawing with Fluminense, then threw away their chance by dropping three points in two games against the two Americas.

The winners of the second phase will join Fluminense, who won the first, in the final. These two will be joined by the team who get the most points over the two phases combined.

With only three weeks to go before the finals were due to begin, it was still not clear how the three-way final would work. Some claimed there

Ramones hit top note

THE scoring combination of Diego Latorre and Gabriel Batistuta was chiefly responsible for taking Boca Juniors to the second-round title of the Argentine National A Division last season.

They were then separated by Batistuta's move to Fiorentina and this season River Plate are on their way to winning the first round of the championship with the Ramones hitting the headlines.

The Ramones are not the New York rock group, but Ramon Diaz and Ramon Medina Bello, two strikers who are tearing up defences for River Plate.

They were still unbeaten after 11 games, with a five-point lead and a match in hand, and on the verge of winning the first round.

Not only their names and playing in the same forward line link them. They are also very similar in character, both coming from the provinces and both possessing a special kind of wit.

Diaz is called "Pelado" (Baldy) because of his extensive crop of hair. He comes from the province of La Rioja, but has travelled extensively.

Medina Bello comes from the province of Entre Rios and his idea of heaven is to go back there whenever he can.

Diaz is 32 (born August 29, 1959) and Medina Bello, nickname "Mencho", is 25 (April 29, 1966). If they are not from the same sign of Zodiac, at least they were born on the same day of the month — the day that Argentines traditionally eat a special pasta dish, leaving money under the plate for good luck.

When Diaz hit the headlines with his outstanding displays next to Diego Maradona in the final of the Junior World Championship in 1979 — he finished as leading scorer — Medina Bello was still helping his father, a farm hand, to earn his living.

"Diaz is the ideal complement for a forward, because he transmits great security to you and turns half chances into goals," says Medina Bello.

But he did not say that Diaz has transformed the team by making them play faster in order to keep up with him. Diaz is also the tournament's top scorer.

And Diaz heaps praise on Medina Bello, the strength and penetration he gives to the attack, the physique that makes rival defences fear him. The fact is that Medina Bello's speed was often wasted by the rest of the team before Diaz returned from Monaco this season.

Medina Bello is the quiet, serious type, without malice, although his team-mates say that off the field he is a real joker.

Diaz is much more talkative, more sure of himself since he went to Europe after playing in the 1982 World Cup finals. At that time it was hard to get a word out of him.

His early days in Europe were not too successful. At Napoli, who paid River Plate 1,250,000 dollars for his transfer, he only scored three goals in his first season (1982-83), but he did progressively better when he moved to Avellino, then Fiorentina and ended up at Internazionale , where he was one of the stars in their 1988-89 championship win.

Then he moved to Monaco — where he stayed until last season — and did not alter his provincial customs in spite of having a flat in the fashionable Formentor building in Monaco (where Princess Stephanie lives) with his wife Mirta and two sons, Emiliano and Michael, both born in Italy.

At the same time, Medina Bello was making his mark with River Plate, already under current coach and former international defender Daniel Passarella. They won the 1989-90 national championship and he was picked for the national team at the beginning of 1991 by new national team coach Alfio Basile.

But success has not made him forget his uncertain start when, at 18, he arrived from his native Entre Rios at Racing Club. They "bought" him from his hometown club, Atletico Urquiza, in exchange for two friendlies against Racing's third and fourth teams.

He was the oldest of seven brothers, went only to prep school and then to work with his father, also Ramon, who called him "Mencho" because he looked like an actor in a TV serial of that time.

When he joined Racing Club, he lived on the club's premises and earned little, but always sent something home to his family. He promised he would buy them a house as soon as he earned well — they lived in a riverside hut which flooded when the water level rose.

Coach

When Ramon made his first-team debut for Racing, he was advised only 10 minutes earlier, but it couldn't have been better. He scored the equaliser in a 1-1 draw with River Plate.

River Plate bought him in 1989 when Diaz was already thinking about going home, and back he went for the 1991 season. He had left after scoring 64 goals for them and 12 in 24 games for Argentina between 1979 and 1982. He brought his goals back, too.

But his goals never brought him back into the national team after coach Cesar Menotti left.

The matter became front page news when President Carlos Menem, a fervent River Plate fan and from the same province, La Rioja, as Diaz, suggested to coach Carlos Bilardo that he should be included in the squad for the 1990 World Cup. Bilardo was even invited to the presidential palace for a barbecue to talk the matter over, but there was nothing doing.

Team captain Maradona, who seemed to have the last word, did not want Diaz. The two had formed a spectacular forward pair in the 1979 Junior World Championship, but had since fallen out over what Diaz called "unreconcilable differences". He says he was quoted as saying "Only Diego's friends play in the national team," but it wasn't true.

Diaz was not picked for last year's South American Championship either — he was still in Europe at the time — and Medina Bello, although in the national team squad, was not in the final 22 and has made only two full international appearances so far. But now, following their success with River Plate, they may well be picked together to play for Argentina.

The partnership almost never got started. Last June, Medina Bello was on the point of being transferred to Germany's Nurnberg, who offered a million dollars. He turned down the move, fearing that he would not be able to adapt his provincial customs, nor would his wife and son, Mauricio.

Medina Bello . . . powerful striker.

Now there is talk of his transfer abroad again, he is thinking about it, mainly because of the financial gain and giving his parents a better life.

Meanwhile, President Menem is smiling quietly over River Plate's improvement since Diaz returned.

ERIC **WEIL**

would be a round robin competition. Others thought the winners of the first and second phases would meet in a "semi-final", with the victorious team playing the final against the side with the most points over phases one and two combined.

In Sao Paulo, eight teams qualified for the semi-final phase — Corinthians, Portuguesa, Palmeiras, Botafogo and Guarani from the green group, Sao Paulo, Internacional and Santo Andre from the yellow group.

Portuguesa went through by a goal in the second minute of injury time that gave them a 1-0 win over Palmeiras in their last game.

A draw would have put them out and Bragantino through.

For the semi-finals, the teams were divided into two groups of four, playing home and away against the others, and the group winners going on to the final.

Corinthians were well on course for the final, despite the absence of the suspended Neto.

They won their first three games in group one, against Portuguesa, Internacional and Santo Andre, conceding only one goal.

But Sao Paulo, in group two, are everyone's favourite.

The attacking game has become the hallmark of Tele Santana, their manager, and the club have some possible recruits for the national team — Rai, Macedo and Elivelton to name but three.

In their first semi-final game they beat Palmeiras 4-2, and followed with a 3-1 win over Botafogo and a 2-2 draw with Guarani.

BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

TOP EIGHT MAKE MATTERS EASY

THE worst storms in Bogota for 70 years, a week-long contest to find Miss Colombia, and the end of the second stage of the Colombian football season. In terms of drama, football finished a distant third.

The eight qualifiers for the third stage of the season were decided two weeks before the end of the stage, with no challenge from the ninth-placed team, Union Magdalena.

With Union out of the way, the top eight had nothing to worry about, and were free to shuffle line-ups.

Championship

At the bottom, with even less to play for, Pereira let in their supporters for nothing to see the final game, while Deportivo Cali moved their whole show 25 kilometres north to the small town of Buga, which had not seen a professional game since 1972.

The resultant crowd of 1500 was as much, if not more, than could have been hoped for in Cali.

Junior Barranquilla safely won the second stage of the championship, thus earning a bonus point for the next stage. Quindio finished second (earning 0.75 of a bonus), America Cali third (0.50) and Nacional Medellin fourth (0.25).

For the first time in the three years since the Championship was reorganised, all eight qualifiers carried some sort of bonus to the next stage. Millonarios, Santa Fe, Bucaramanga and Medellin earned points from the first stage.

Antonio Mesa Escobar, president of Independiente Medellin and a respected figure within Colombian football, resigned after his side lost a local derby 2-1 to Nacional, a defeat that severely compromised Medellin's chances of reaching the final stage.

Escobar was reported to have received death threats from fans.

Medellin have not won a title since 1956, despite being Colombia's best supported side — an average of 32,000 in 1991.

Two key members of the Colombian FA's executive, Hernan Mejia and Efrain Pachon, also quit, as a result of a war raging between the majority of the clubs, led by Juan Jose Bellini of America Cali and the FA's president, Leon Londono, over the running of Colombian football.

The loquacious Londono remains in charge, for the moment.

KEITH **SMITH**

TV bonanza in Uruguay

URUGUAY may have problems with getting their European-based players to play, but they are not giving their national team's performances away.

They held an auction for the TV rights to their national team's matches until the 1994 World Cup finals, and six firms paid 20,000 dollars each just for the right to participate in it.

Pele Sport Marketing and Telemarket SA won and will be paying the Uruguayan FA 854,000 dollars and a percentage of earnings.

Topped

The biggest clubs and leading title-winners in Uruguayan soccer Penarol and Nacional, are both back in the title fight — which had not been the case lately.

They share top place with Defensor Sporting, while Central Espanol, Liverpool and Danubio are within two points with four matches to go.

Nacional, who topped the table on their own for a time — by as much as six points — have taken only seven out of the last 20.

Nacional also lost the "big match" by 1-0 against Penarol, although the latter had to play for the last 11 minutes with Goncalves in goal, after Fernando Alvez was sent off. Sergio Martinez scored the winner.

The honour of leading scorer continues to be disputed by the two teams — Nacional's Panamanian, Julio Dely Valdez, has scored 12 and Penarol's Brazilian, Paulinho Alves, has nine.

Menotti's tequila tactics

WHILE Mexican players are pleased with their new national team coach, Cesar Menotti, who led Argentina to the World Cup in 1978, other local coaches continue to show antagonism.

"Menotti's tactics are older than tequila," says the 1970 Mexican national team coach, Raul Cardenas. He doubts whether the team, always among the best in their zone, will be able to qualify for the next World Cup.

The moment of truth was Mexico's first full international under Menotti, against Uruguay in Veracruz.

The 1-1 result was acceptable, although Uruguay missed their European-based stars.

Even if their clubs had agreed to release them, they did not want to play under Luis Cubilla, because he had left them out of the South American Championship in Chile.

The Mexican FA decided not to punish players whose documents were false as far as age was concerned if they owned up during November, and about 50 did so.

This was to avoid a future scandal such as that of the Mexican junior team playing in a world championship qualifying tournament in 1988, which resulted in Mexico being banned internationally by FIFA for two years (which included the last World Cup).

Apart from that, the Mexican Second and Third division have age limits to make tournaments more competitive.

Atlante moved to the top of the First Division after 11 matches, but Argentine striker Sergio Verdirame of Morelia still tops the scorers with eight goals.

Seven Santos players went down with typhoid fever while at their training camp preparing for a game.

Former Uruguay international Roberto Matosas has replaced Argentine Miguel Angel Lopez as coach of Veracruz.

Poll paints a poor picture

WHILE Brazilian coaches lament the lack of new talent, the many fans of what is still the most popular sport in the country have some tough criticism, too.

A poll made by Datafolha, an institute specialising in investigating public opinion, shows that 56 per cent of fans admit that they are losing interest in the sport, 86 per cent say that they are afraid of going to matches for fear of getting hurt in frequent incidents involving hooligans, 63 per cent said that the country's soccer officials are corrupt and blame them for the decline of popularity of the sport and poor organisation of tournaments, and 67 per cent believe that many results are fixed.

The poll was taken in Brazil's strongest soccer centres, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Coaches meanwhile lament that the popular image of future stars playing soccer on the beaches is no longer true, and there are few other places left to play in Brazil's growing cities.

Youngsters are finding other pastimes such as basketball and volleyball (both of which have grown in popularity in Brazil) — and even video games and the increase of crime and drug-taking among the young also is blamed.

The new national team coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, says he does not have such a wide choice of players as his predecessors, while both the decline in skills and in the games popularity is blamed on recent efforts to use European styles of play.

Trailed

Botafogo of Rio lead the second round of the Guanabara State Championship, greatly helped by new striker Chicao, on loan from Coritiba.

He scored 12 goals in seven games for his new club and was joint second (with Flamengo's Gaucho) behind Bebeto and Valdir, who have 13.

Flamengo, who trailed Botafogo by two points with a match in hand, were suspended internationally by FIFA for refusing to withdraw a lawsuit to annul the re-election of Brazilian FA president Ricardo Teixeira, FIFA chief Joao Havelange's son-in-law. The suspension is academic at the moment as Flamengo have not qualified for any international tournament.

The eventual second-round winner will play first-round winners Fluminense for the title.

In the Rio League more goals are being scored overall — an average of 2.37 per game — as clubs are at last returning to a more attack-minded game led by Fluminense, under coach Edinho and without leading stars this season.

Things are different in the Sao Paulo League, which has 1.89 goals per game. The quarter-final stage comprises eight clubs in two groups of four, led by Corinthians and Sao Paulo. The two group winners clash for the title.

Referees meanwhile have threatened to strike unless tougher security measures are taken. Five of their members were attacked in recent weeks.

LIBERTADORES DATES

THE Libertadores Cup holders, Colo Colo of Chile, asked to be included in the 1992 draw from the first round — defending champions have up to now been given a bye into the second round — so that Group One will this year include five clubs.

Newell's Old Boys and San Lorenzo of Argentina have qualified and go in with Colo Colo and two other Chilean clubs yet to be decided.

The first-round draw, with only 10 clubs qualified at press time, is: Group 1 — as above; Group 2 — Brazil (Sao Paulo, Criciuma) and Bolivia (Bolivar and one to qualify); Group 3 — Ecuador and Venezuela (Universidad de los Andes and Sport Maritimo); Group 4 — Colombia (to qualify) and Peru (Sporting Cristal and one more); Group 5 — Paraguay (Cerro Porteno and one more) and Uruguay (to qualify).

Only the bottom team of each group go out after round-robin play which must be completed on April 18.

The second round is scheduled for April 22 and 29, the third for May 6 and 13, semi-finals for May 20 and 27 and finals for June 3 and 10.

COLOMBIA:

Atletico Junior of Barranquilla, coached by Uruguayan Julio Comesana, have two new stars.

Junior internationals Ivan Valenciano (left) and Victor Pacheco (considered the best newcomer in the League) helped them to win the second tournament of the season and top the overall standings from which the top eight advanced to the final round.

Valenciano finished as leading scorer in the regular season, with 24 out of the 71 scored by the most productive attack, in 40 matches.

But things have not quite quietened down. Independiente Medellin's president, Antonio Mesa Escobar, was given 24 hours to resign or be killed. He took the threat seriously, and resigned.

ECUADOR:

Barcelona of Guayaquil topped the four-team final round by a point at the halfway stage with Argentine midfielder Ruben Insua — considered the best foreign player in the country — continuing to shine. Valdez, Deportivo Quito and Nacional are the other finalists.

PARAGUAY:

Cerro Porteno won the second round of the Championship unbeaten, and Olimpia's Torres was leading scorer with 12 goals.

The top four from each round qualified for the final round — played initially in two groups of four each — but as Olimpia and Atletico Colegiales finished in the top four in each round, fifth and sixth-placed Nacional and Guarani also gained a place.

Cerro Porteno, Sportivo Luqueno, Cerro Cora and Sol de America make up the eight.

VENEZUELA:

Two signs that professional soccer is growing are post-match dope testing, started this season, and Caracas FC lining up an overseas player — German Andreas Vogler.

After seven games of the 16-team First Division Lara, Minerven and newcomers Trujillanos shared the lead. Defending champions Universidad de los Andes were halfway down the table.

BOLIVIA:

Bolivar lead the second championship of the season comfortably, and one of their players, midfielder Carlos Borges - considered one of the best in the country — scored the 10,000th goal in the professional league.

CHILE:

Colo Colo are well on the way to winning their third title in succession, with a four-point lead over newly-promoted Coquimbo Unido and five games to go.

In the Second Division, players of Lota Schwager, from the mining town of Lota, took over the club's premises and refused to play until they were paid, having gone three months without wages. There is a ruling in Chile that if players are not paid by the 25th of each month, the team lose points until they are.

Universidad Catolica have sold international midfielder Fabian Estay to St Gallen for 700,000 dollars, but bought Paraguayan forward Julio Cardoso from the Swiss club a few days later.

PERU:

Universitario won the Metropolitan division of the season's second championship to qualify for a final round with Sport Boys second, Defensor Lima and Sporting Cristal (joint third) and the winners of other regional divisions — Melgar of Arequipa (South). Alianza Atletico of Sullana (North), Leon of Huanuco (Centre) and Colegio Nacional of Iquitos (Oriental).

The winner will then face Sporting Cristal, winner of the first championship, for the title, unless the same club wins both.

COSTA RICA:

Liga Deportiva Aluejelense beat defending champions Deportivo Saprissa in the two-legged championship final, their 16th title.

Saprissa are leading winners with 18 titles and the two teams are the most popular in the country.

Aluejelense won both legs — 2-1 at home and 1-0 away. They had won the regular championship and Saprissa had won a knock-out among other leading teams to get another crack at defending their title.

ERIC **WEIL**

SUPER CUP

EASY FOR CRUZEIRO

IN the Super Cup tournament for Libertadores Cup winners, the current holders of that trophy, Colo Colo, lost to Cruzeiro, who went on to knock out Uruguay's Nacional and defending champions Olimpia of Paraguay to reach the final.

River Plate had been strong favourites based on the form they are showing in their domestic championship, but fighting on two fronts seemed finally to be too much for them, and they were over-run 3-0 by Cruzeiro in the second leg.

River Plate, at home in the first leg, were in a quandary — they had rented their stadium to evangelist Billy Graham for that week.

He not only agreed not to preach that day, but also said he would accompany River Plate in spirit so they could win.

River Plate were well on top, but out of luck and only won 2-0 . . . which was not enough.

Hooliganism was present, of course. After River Plate beat Penarol of Uruguay in Montevideo, 3-1 in the second leg of the semi-final, to win 5-1 on aggregate, fans of both teams went into battle in and outside the stadium.

Police, blaming the Argentine fans for starting it, reported 150 arrests, three men with bullet wounds and several others stabbed in brawls.

The Super Cup always brings together a number of teams no longer at the top and there were several very low gates in the early rounds, but the South American Confederation (CONMEBOL) are not dismayed.

They want to organise yet another trophy, the CONMEBOL Cup — like the UEFA Cup — for the third and fourth best teams in each country.

Penarol's Victor Lopez (right) holds off River Plate's Astrada during the Super Cup semi-final second leg in Montevideo.

River Plate break record

RIVER PLATE broke a club record for the best start to the season, dating back to 1932, when they won their ninth game running — 1-0 against Huracan.

They continued to top the first round of Argentina's National A Division, with only one point dropped in 11 games.

This came in a drab 0-0 draw against eternal title rivals Boca Juniors, who are second but already five points behind and with an extra game played.

Heavy rain put out the fire generated by the clash of Argentina's two big clubs, who were too careful to stop each other to be able to create much play. The 60,000 crowd was controlled by some 1,300 police.

There was trouble, however, in the Talleres Cordoba v Velez Sarsfield match which was suspended five minutes from the end.

The home team were leading 1-0 when Velez player Ortega Sanchez was hit by a missile thrown from the stands and taken off injured.

Suspended

Earlier in the season the Racing-River Plate match was suspended for the same reason and the points were later given to the visiting team, but FA officials are now wary of where this missile-throwing can lead to.

There were doubts about the injury — Sanchez was whisked off the field and not examined by Talleres officials until a bit later, and people are saying that fans throwing stones could fix match results in this way. Shades of the Rojas incident in the Brazil-Chile World Cup qualifier!

Independiente, coached by their former midfield idol, Ricardo Bochini, seem to be finally getting together — although scoring few goals — and moving up the table. Last season's champions, Newell's, are at the bottom.

Ramon Diaz, mostly credited for revitalising River Plate, continues as leading scorer with eight goals followed by Esteban Gonzalez (Velez Sarsfield) with six.

Big match is just a farce

THAT Argentina v The Rest match at River Plate's stadium in Buenos Aires turned out to be another farce, just like the Argentina v Rest of South America game in September. The rest of the world never turned up.

What they got were two Yugoslavs (Belodedic and Savicevic) whom most locals had never heard of, Spain's Diego, and goalkeeper Meola and midfielder Balboa from the US.

Stranded

So once again the organisers — a private firm of little experience — had to make up the team with foreigners playing in Argentina, among them goalkeeper Chabala, a Zambian, who is only third choice with Argentinos Juniors, and one Uruguayan from Danubio who turned up at the stadium to see if he could get a game.

The organisers said that other European players were stranded in Madrid due to a flight cancellation.

True or not, it is one thing to organise such a game in Europe, where players are within a couple of hours flying time away, and another to do it in South America.

The match was for charity — UNICEF and a local entity fighting AIDS. There were only 10,000 spectators and TV rights had to be negotiated for less than anticipated.

The organisers lost money, of course.

Some of the players complained they could not collect their 300 dollars appearance money.

The most important thing from the local point of view was that Argentina won 3-0, so beating the record of 15 unbeaten games held by teams coached by Guillermo Stabile between 1940 and 1942 and by Juan Jose Pizzuti between 1971 and 1972.

Let's get it straight . . . Pizzuti's run of 15 included two wins against an African XI and a Central American selection, while Alfio Basile's current team won their last two games against those hastily assembled sides with pompous names.

So the team coached by Stabile still hold the record of 15 unbeaten "A" internationals, albeit all against South American opposition.

diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by

KEIR RADNEDGE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

ACTION: *In Argentina River Plate stretch their lead over Boca to five points as River win 1-0 away to Newell's Old Boys while Boca are held 1-1 at home by Rosario Central ... substitute Wagner scores a match-winning hat-trick in seven minutes as Palmeiras beat Botafogo RP 4-1 in the Sao Paulo championship play-offs ... Feyenoord beat Ajax 2-0 before 48,000, the best gate of the season in Holland ... two goals in four minutes in the second half from Ruud Gullit bring Milan a 2-0 victory at Sampdoria and keep them one point clear of Juventus ... Burgos slip from third to fourth in Spain after losing 2-0 at home to leaders Real Madrid ... Red Star warm up for the Supercup match against Manchester United by beating Spartak Subotica 6-1; Pancev scores a hat-trick.*

GERMANY: *Koln forward Maurice Banach, the 10-goal second-top scorer in the Bundesliga, is killed in a car crash.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

HOLLAND: *Arsenal miss out as Ajax midfielder and skipper Jan Wouters decides to join Bayern Munich.*

SCOTLAND: *Rangers sell unsettled striker Mo Johnston to Everton for £1.5million.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

ACTION: *Manchester United win the European Supercup, beating Red Star 1-0 at Old Trafford with a 67th-minute goal from Brian McClair ... in the European under-21s/Olympics, France beat Iceland 2-1, Bulgaria lost 0-1 to Romania and Germany won 3-0 away to Belgium.*

ITALY: *Genoa's Uruguayan forward Carlos Aguilera is charged by Italian police with involvement in a prostitution racket.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

ACTION: *Germany move closer to a place in the European finals by winning 1-0 in Belgium; Bulgaria and Romania draw 1-1, which sends Scotland through; Portugal win 1-0 at home to Greece; and France complete their 100 per cent, eight-game campaign by defeating Iceland 3-1 in Paris ... Cruzeiro win the South American Supercup thanks to a 3-0 home win over River Plate. Cruzeiro had lost 2-0 in Buenos Aires.*

BELGIUM: *The Belgium-Germany game is overshadowed by a hooligan invasion which sees 869 Germans arrested by the Belgian police.*

ENGLAND: *Tottenham and England star Gary Lineker confirms that he will leave at the end of the season and, in a £700,000 deal, will play for the new Grampus Eight club in Nagoya, Japan, in 1993.*

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

REAL MADRID . . .

for maintaining a record start to the season by dropping only one point in their first 13 league games under coach Raddy Antic (right).

HOLLAND: *Ajax beat SSV/Dordrecht 1-0 while PSV are held 1-1 at home by Volendam.*

ITALY: *Pasquale Bruno of Torino is banned for eight games and Torino team-mate Roberto Policano for four in the wake of their expulsions in the Turin derby against Juventus.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

BELGIUM: *UEFA says it will not contest the appeal court's rejection of the appeal against the post-Heysel sentence on former general-secretary Hans Bangerter.*

CAMEROON: *Roger Milla denies reports that he will make yet another comeback for the African Nations' Cup in Senegal in January.*

FRANCE: *The federation orders that the Saint-Etienne v Marseille game, before which Papin was hit by a bottle and during which Bell was hit by a bottle, should be replayed. Saint-Etienne won the original match 1-0.*

SWEDEN: *UEFA president Lennart Johansson says Sweden, as it prepares for a European Championship hooligan invasion, should study the way England has reduced the hooligan problem.*

SWITZERLAND: *Heinz Hermann, captain of Switzerland, holder of a national record 117 caps, announces his international retirement.*

UNITED STATES: *The major TV channels decide, after all, to bid for chunks of the 1994 World Cup domestic coverage.*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

ACTION: *Papua New Guinea draw 1-1 with hosts Fiji in an Oceania Olympic qualifier ... Cuba virtually wrap up the Caribbean junior championship after a 2-1 win over the Dominican Republic.*

GERMANY: *Police say an autopsy has shown that Koln star Maurice Banach had drunk twice the legal alcohol limit when his car crashed fatally at the weekend ... the following day's Third Division game between Hafen Rostock and FC Berlin is postponed because of fears of hooligan trouble ... Borussia Monchengladbach beat bottom club Wattenscheid 1-0 in a relegation duel.*

HOLLAND: *Feyenoord maintain their revival with a 1-0 win away to Fortuna Sittard.*

POLAND: *Gornik Zabrze agree to sell forward Ryszard Cyron to Hamburg. He will not count as a foreigner because he qualifies to take up German citizenship.*

SWEDEN: *UEFA president Lennart Johansson, addressing fears of hooligan violence marring the European Championship finals, says: "We will do everything we can so that they behave. We will give them hell."*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

ACTION: *Austria Salzburg maintain their one-point lead by thrashing Krems 5-2 ... Monaco miss a chance to pull level with Marseille at the top in France when they lose 2-0 at home to Le Havre ... Eintracht Frankfurt keep their nose in front in Germany, beating Hansa Rostock 2-0. The Koln-Dresden game is postponed to December 10 as tribute to car crash victim Maurice Banach ... Michael Laudrup scores twice in Barcelona's 3-1 defeat of Valencia.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

ACTION: *The US are held 1-1 in Dallas by Costa Rica in a friendly ... Albania's championship is halted by a referees' strike ... bad weather forces the postponement of five first division matches in Argentina ... in Belgium Anderlecht stay top after hanging on for a 1-1 draw away to Cercle after goalkeeper De Wilde is sent off early on for a professional foul ... the Rio state game between Itaperuna and America Tres Rios is abandoned after 10 minutes when referee Leo Feldman sends off five America players. Itaperuna were leading 1-0 at the time ... Marseille go four points clear, winning 2-1 at Cannes ... Olympiakos beat Panionios 3-1 in Greece amid increasing pressure on the club from dissatisfied, unpaid Soviet stars Protasov, Litovchenko and Savichev ... in Italy, Milan beat Cremonese 3-1 while pursuers Juventus win 2-0 at Ascoli ... Real Madrid win again in Spain, beating Mallorca 2-0.*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

DENMARK: *Frem striker Lars Brogger is sold to Fortuna Dusseldorf.*

GERMANY: *The DFB permits three imports per club from next season ... more than 1,000, including many players, attend the funeral in Munster of Koln forward Maurice Banach ... Bayern Munich's annual meeting confirms the vice-presidential appointments of Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.*

HOLLAND: *Soren Lerby, Bayern coach and former Ajax star, is fined £70,000 and handed a suspended six-month jail sentence by an Amsterdam court for tax fraud. This follows an appeal by the tax authorities against verdicts in a lower court. Former members of the Ajax board are fined a total of £400,000.*

JAPAN: *The Mazda club deny reports of an offer to former England captain Bryan Robson.*

PHILIPPINES: *FIFA president Joao Havelange says he expects the 2002 World Cup to be staged in Asia.*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

AUSTRIA: *Dismissed national boss Alfred Riedl is appointed coach to second division Favoriten AC.*

BELGIUM: *Anderlecht agree to Budapest as a replacement venue for their Champions' Cup tie "away" to Red Star Belgrade. Anderlect turned down Szeged on grounds of travel and accommodation problems.*

HOLLAND: *Rinus Michels calls up Feyenoord midfielder Peter Bosz to replace injured Berry Van Aerle in the national squad to play in Greece.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

ACTION: *European club action sees Anderlecht held goalless by Panathinaikos, Sampdoria beat Red Star 2-0, Barcelona beat Sparta 3-2 and Kiev beat Benfica 1-0 in the revamped Champions' Cup. In the UEFA Cup Hamburg are surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Sigma Olomouc ... in the Women's World Cup semi-finals, Norway beat Sweden 4-1 and the United States beat Germany 5-2 with a hat-trick from Shannon Jennings.*

GERMANY: *Second division St Pauli beat Galatasaray 4-0 in a Hamburg friendly organised to promote the fight against racism. St Pauli fans had recently attacked immigrants at matches ... cash-crisis club Dresden are saved by a shirt-advert agreement with the Sorad sports promotion company.*

GREECE: *Litovchenko, Savichev and Protasov demand cancellation of their contracts following Olympiakos' failure to pay them since the autumn.*

ITALY: *Milan's Ruud Gullit is charged with bringing the game into disrepute over comments to a Belgian magazine that the federation "gave Napoli the 1990 championship."*

UNITED STATES: *USSF president Alan Rothenberg says that USA '94 may BUY screen time on American television for matches at the World Cup finals.*

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:

RUUD GULLIT . . .

for leading Milan back to the top of the table in Italy and making a fool of all those critics who wrote him off after serious, recurrent knee trouble.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

ITALY: *The federation admits that European Community legislation could mean up to five foreigners being eligible for each Italian club side in 1997-98 ... Foggia complete the signing of Soviet striker Igor Kolivanov and prepare to line him up in the weekend league game against Verona ... 1982 World Cup hero Paolo Rossi is cleared of charges of tax evasion over bonuses paid after the 1978 finals in Argentina (where Italy finished fourth).*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica striker Rui Aguas undergoes surgery in Lisbon after breaking his right leg in the Champions' Cup defeat in Kiev in midweek ... a Lisbon court orders Sporting to pay Ricardo Rocha (now Real Madrid) back pay and bonuses adding up to £150,000.*

SPAIN: *Atletico Madrid open talks with Marseille to sign former Hajduk Split winger Alen Boksic.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Red Star striker Darko Pancev says he has signed an option contract with Milan.*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

ARGENTINA: *A federal court downgrades a drugs possession charge against Diego Maradona.*

FRANCE: *In WORLD SOCCER'S annual poll there is a clean sweep for France. Jean-Pierre Papin is named World Player of the Year, Michel Platini World Manager of the Year and the French national side as World Team of the Year. Simultaneously Papin is revealed as likely substitute for Maradona at Napoli.*

SOVIET UNION: *The "Team of the Season", according to votes from the Soviet sports press, would consist of: Cherchesov (Spartak) — Galiamin (CSKA), Chernikov (Moscow Dynamo), Tsveiba (Kiev), Kulkov (Spartak/Benfica), Dmitri Kuznetsov (CSKA), Korneyev (CSKA), Shalimov (Spartak/Foggia), Kolivanov (Moscow Dynamo/Foggia), Mostovoi (Spartak), Yuran (Kiev/Benfica).*

SWITZERLAND: *Igor Dobrovolski, Soviet striker on loan to Servette, flies in for talks with Genoa about his future.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ACTION: *The United States win the Women's World Cup in China. Michelle Akers-Stahl scores both goals in the 2-1 Final defeat of Norway ... a remarkable German league game sees Bayern go down 4-3 at home to Werder*

Bremen after fighting back from 0-3 to 2-3 ... Red Star, playing early so as fly off to Tokyo for the World Club Cup, beat Zemun 1-0 thanks to a last-minute Pancev penalty.

ITALY: *Piero Boschi is appointed director general at Inter ... Atalanta ask FIFA for a decision this coming week on their action against Germany's Andy Moller. Atalanta say he reneged on a signed agreement to join them, after Atalanta bought his option contract from Juventus.*

SPAIN: *Ronald Koeman is sent off as Barcelona draw 1-1 at Albacete.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

ACTION: *Marseille are held goalless at home by Lyon but remain three points clear in France ... Italy's San Siro derby ends in honours even, Inter and Milan drawing 1-1 with goals from Klinsmann and Van Basten ... Real Madrid charge ahead in Spain, thrashing Espanol 5-1 in Barcelona thanks to a hat-trick from Hierro ... Porto win 2-0 away to Penafiel to remain ahead of Benfica on goal difference in Portugal.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Sparta move up into fourth place thanks to a 2-0 defeat of Dunajska Streda. Transfer target Roman Kukleta scores both goals.*

SOVIET UNION: *Victor Banikov, former Soviet Union goalkeeper and now chairman of the Ukraine federation, says his FA will apply this week for independent membership of FIFA and hopes to begin a formal international programme in May. But he insists that Ukraine footballers will remain free to play for the Soviet Union at the European Championship finals in Sweden.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

FRANCE: *Saint-Etienne win their appeal to have their controversial match against Marseille replayed in their own Stade-Geoffroy-Guichard.*

GERMANY: *Werder Bremen beat Kaiserslautern 2-0 in a cup quarter-final.*

UNITED STATES: *FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says there will be no major changes to the laws of the game or the World Cup format for the 1994 finals in the United States. He says: "We need better application of the laws, that's all." This means that penalty shoot-outs stay, including for the Final ... UEFA officials say England and Portugal are current sole contenders to stage the 1996 European Championship finals.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Red Star officials, en route to Tokyo for the World Club Cup, say that Milan have not only agreed an option on Darko Pancev but are negotiating to buy Dejan Savicevic as well.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

ACTION: *Holland secure their place in the European finals thanks to a 2-0 victory over Greece in Salonika ... Israel beat Cyprus 2-1 in Nicosia in an Olympic qualifier.*

AUSTRIA: *Ernst Weber, from cash-crisis club Krems, is appointed new boss of Vorwarts Steyr, their fourth coach in a year.*

ITALY: *The third round of the cup is completed, with aggregate victories for Inter, Genoa, Roma, Torino, Sampdoria and Parma. The Verona v Milan tie was delayed. The quarter-finals draw is: Sampdoria v Roma, Parma v Genoa, Juventus v Inter, Torino v Milan or Verona.*

UNITED STATES: *Alan Rothenberg, head of both the USSF and now the 1994 World Cup organising organisation, promises that all tickets for all matches will be sold. However he is less optimistic about prospects for a domestic national championship — "this may have to wait until 1995."*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

HOLLAND: *The KNVB announce that it wants Johan Cruyff to manage the 1994 World Cup campaign.*

SOVIET UNION: *Reports that Kiev's Ahkrik Tsveiba has signed for Tottenham are denied by the English club.*

UNITED STATES: *UEFA confirms its imports rule amendment for the European club competitions. From next season clubs may field a maximum of three foreign players plus two players who have played in that country for five years — three of which must have been in junior soccer; Israel is also invited to enter the Champions' Cup and the Cup-winners' Cup; Belgium is barred from staging European finals of any description because of the Heysel case fall-out ... FIFA's executive hears a request from Ukraine to be admitted provisionally to FIFA immediately and to be included in the 1994 World Cup draw.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

BELGIUM: *Interior Minister Louis Tobback leads a chorus of protest at UEFA's edicts following the Heysel case. Tobback says: "This is blackmail."*

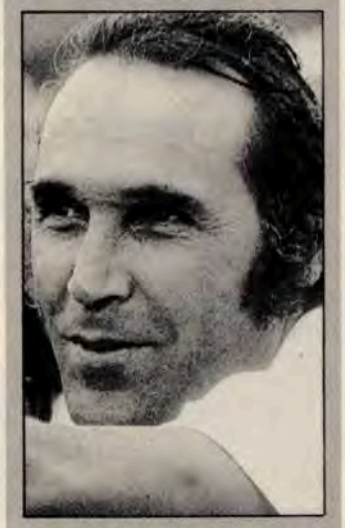
DENMARK: *The DBU launches an appeal for soccer kit to be sent to the three Baltic states.*

FRANCE: *Second division Brest, heavily in debt, are wound up by court order. Tomorrow's match against Laval is cancelled. One star already leaving is David Ginola, who has signed for Paris Saint-Germain.*

SPAIN: *Johan Cruyff says he appreciates KNVB interest in his becoming Holland manager, but points out that he is contracted to Barcelona until 1993.*

UNITED STATES: *Liechtenstein withdraws from the World Cup draw.*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?



BLAGOJE VIDINIC . . .

goalkeeper for the Yugoslav team which won the 1960 Olympic Games title (beating Denmark 3-1 in the Final in Rome), then World Cup finals manager of Morocco in 1970 and Zaire in 1974. Now a senior liaison manager with sportswear giant adidas.

OBITUARY

BILL FOX, president of the Football League and Blackburn Rovers chairman, dies aged 63 at his Blackburn home. Fox was a vegetable wholesaler who became League president in 1989 after the departure of Philip Carter following the row over television negotiations. Fox had wanted to install Gordon Taylor as the League's chief executive but the plan backfired. He was a firm opponent of the Premier League breakaway.

CLIFF BASTIN, Arsenal hero of the 1930s, dies in his home city of Exeter aged 79 (See Brian Glanville's Column).

SOCCER ON TV . . .

SKY SPORTS

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY
19.00 LIVE SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Hibernian v Hearts
01.00 Hearts v Hibernian

THURSDAY 2 JANUARY
12.00 Hearts v Hibernian
19.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
01.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 3 JANUARY
07.30 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
18.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
19.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL REVIEW
21.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND: Evening update.

SATURDAY 4 JANUARY
08.30 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
09.30 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
13.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
18.00 FA CUP SPECIAL
22.00 FA CUP CLASSIC: The 1964 FA Cup Final: West Ham v Preston
00.30 FA CUP SPECIAL

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY
08.30 FA CUP SPECIAL: Extensive action from this weekend's ties.
20.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Coverage of the best of the day's games.
22.00 FA CUP ROUND-UP: Highlights of today's ties.
22.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Highlights from three games.

MONDAY 6 JANUARY
07.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Coverage of a game from yesterday afternoon.
12.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Full coverage of a game on the day the League resumes after the winter break.
19.30 FA CUP — LIVE: The pick of the third round ties.
22.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: The weekly magazine.
01.00 FA CUP THIRD ROUND

TUESDAY 7 JANUARY
07.00 FA CUP THIRD ROUND: Last night's tie in full
12.30 FA CUP THIRD ROUND: Last night's tie in full.
15.30 FA CUP CLASSIC: The 1964 FA Cup Final.
18.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: The weekly magazine.
20.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
24.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY
07.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
12.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
14.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: The weekly magazine.
18.00 NETBUSTERS: A fresh volley of goals from Britain and Europe.
20.00 FA CUP SPECIAL: A round-up of the week's action.
24.00 FA CUP SPECIAL

THURSDAY 9 JANUARY
07.00 FA CUP SPECIAL
12.30 FA CUP SPECIAL: Third-round goals and highlights.
19.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
24.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 10 JANUARY
18.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 11 JANUARY
08.30 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
09.30 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
22.00 FA CUP CLASSIC: Everton v Sheffield Wednesday in 1966.

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY
20.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Full match coverage of the best of the day's games.
22.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL
02.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL

MONDAY 13 JANUARY
12.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Fixtures in the Serie A.
20.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 14 JANUARY
12.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL
15.30 FA CUP CLASSIC: Everton v Sheffield Wednesday 1966.
18.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
20.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY
12.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
19.00 FA CUP REPLAY — LIVE: Exclusive full match coverage of a third round replay.

THURSDAY 16 JANUARY
12.30 FA CUP REPLAY: Another chance to see last night's match.
19.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 17 JANUARY
07.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
18.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY
07.30 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
22.00 FA CUP CLASSIC: Sunderland v Leeds 1973.

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY
20.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Full match coverage.
22.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL

MONDAY 20 JANUARY
12.30 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Full match coverage.
20.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY
12.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL.
15.30 FA CUP CLASSIC: Sunderland v Leeds 1973.
18.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
20.00 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY
12.30 THE FOOTBALLER'S FOOTBALL SHOW
18.30 NETBUSTERS
19.00 ZDS CUP AREA FINAL — LIVE: Exclusive' coverage of the first leg of one of the two area semi-finals.

● The African Nations Cup is being televised live and exclusive on SCREENSPORT starting with the opening ceremony on January 12 and culminating in the final on January 26. SCREENSPORT is devoting more coverage to the tounament than has ever been seen in Europe before.

SCREENSPORT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2
21:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL 1991-92 — Highlights of the season.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4
00:30 SPANISH FOOTBALL 1991-92

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5
15:30 SPANISH FOOTBALL 1991-92

MONDAY, JANUARY 6
22:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL 1991-92

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7
18:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8
08:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
15:30 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS
21:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Atletico Madrid v Read Madrid, Mallorca v Barcelona.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
15:30 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP OPENING CEREMONY, followed at 16:00 by Cameroon v Morocco, both live.
18:30 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP: Senegal v Nigeria live.
23:00 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP. Highlights of today's matches.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
10:00 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP. Highlights of Sunday's matches.
14:30 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP. Highlights of Sunday's matches.
18:30 AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP: Egypt v Zambia live.
21:30 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS
22:00 Highlights of Algeria v Ivory Coast and Egypt v Zambia.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
10:00 Highlights of Algeria v Ivory Coast and Egypt v Zambia.
14:30 Highlights of Algeria v Ivory Coast and Egypt v Zambia.
18:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS
18:30 Morocco v Zaire live.
22:00 Highlights of Morocco v Zaire and Nigeria v Kenya.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
08:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS
10:00 Highlights of Morocco v Zaire and Nigeria v Kenya.
14:30 Highlights of Morocco v Zaire and Nigeria v Kenya.
18:30 Zambia v Ghana live.
22:00 Highlights of Zambia v Ghana and Ivory Coast v Congo.

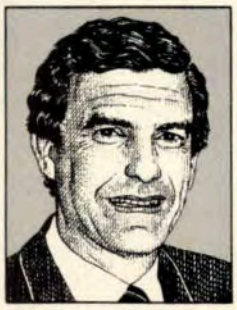
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
10:00 Highlights of Zambia v Ghana and Ivory Coast v Congo.
14:30 Highlights of Zambia v Ghana and Ivory Coast v Congo.
18:30 Cameroon v Zaire live.
22:00 Highlights of Cameroon v Zaire and Senegal v Kenya.
23:00 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Barcelona v Valladolid and Real Madrid v Osasuna.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
10:00 Highlights of Cameroon v Zaire and Senegal v Kenya.
14:30 Highlights of Cameroon v Zaire and Senegal v Kenya.
18:30 Egypt v Ghana live.
22:00 Highlights Egypt v Ghana and Algeria v Congo.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
02:00 Highlights of Egypt v Ghana and Algeria v Congo.
10:00 Highlights of Egypt v Ghana and Algeria v Congo.
14:30 Highlights of Egypt v Ghana and Algeria v Congo.

HOPES FOR '92

Grow up Gazza



TREVOR BROOKING

I CANNOT remember a more dramatic and amazing year for domestic football.

Blazing headlines even welcomed 1991 after Tottenham's Paul Gascoigne had been controversially sent-off for dissent during the live televised game against Manchester United at White Hart Lane on New Years' Day.

Since the 1990 World Cup in Italy the Spurs midfielder had become the most talked about player in football and no day seemed to go by without a national newspaper running one story or another.

He was a key figure as Spurs advanced in the FA Cup and early in March he scored the winner against Notts County to earn a semi-final confrontation with Arsenal.

Spurs gambled on Gazza having a hernia operation and recovering in those four weeks, and then also revealed a world record transfer bid of £8.5 million from Lazio for their prized talent.

The semi-final at Wembley was a classic as Gascoigne mesmerised his North London rivals with an inspirational individual display that culminated in a 3-1 victory.

The stage was set for a repeat performance against Nottingham Forest in the Cup Final, and it was billed as his farewell match before departing to Italy.

But sadly, the second of two reckless tackles by the star himself, destroyed the anticipated script and both player and club suddenly had their future clouded with uncertainty as he was left with a serious knee injury.

At boardroom level Terry Venables managed to persuade millionaire business giant Alan Sugar to give him the financial support he needed to wrestle control of Spurs.

Now as Managing Director, Terry enters 1992 gradually reducing the debts that almost destroyed the club.

Paul Gascoigne has learnt how quickly and cruelly the fortunes of sport can change, but for all of us who admire his exciting talent let us hope he can make a full recovery in 1992 and once again enthrall supporters as before.

If so, the lessons learnt must surely mean he will be a much better prepared person both on and off the playing pitch.

It was a bad year for injuries. Two of England's most exciting youngsters Lee Sharpe and John Salako, suffered long absences just as international football seemed to be beckoning.

Gazza . . . inspirational display at Wembley in the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal.

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SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

REAL RISE ABOVE THE CRITICS

THE story so far is that everyone would like to be playing as badly as Real Madrid.

Gheorghe Hagi is still finding plaudits much harder to earn than in Romania.

Michel has been persistently slated for "lack of character". Robert Prosinecki, in the three League games his three thigh injuries have allowed him to play, has been accused of "swallowing the ball" and refusing to feed Michel.

With Hugo Sanchez only now back from injury, his replacement Luis Enrique has not fulfilled his promises. And Raddy Antic sits on the bench with Leo Beenhakker casting a menacing shadow over his shoulder. The consensus of opinion is that Real are tactically naive and not playing well.

Real thrashed Real Sociedad 4-1 to take their goal tally to 35, the best any team has ever achieved in the first third of a season.

Antic can claim another record — that of having dropped only one point in 13 games. The previous record of two dropped was set, ironically, by Leo Beenhakker.

While mid-term reports are no guarantee of top marks in the final exam, crisis hit Real had at least established a lead of six points over Atletico and eight over Barcelona, which left Atletico president Jesus Gil and Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff trotting out the routine accusations of biased refereeing.

Exit

After Atletico's 3-2 defeat in Bilbao, in which Ramos Marcos awarded three penalties (two to Atletico), Gil described the official as "closer to Real Madrid than the club's shield" and rated his performance as, in liberal translation, lower than a pekinese's bottom.

The bottom line is, for the umpteenth time, legal action against Gil brought by the Referees' Association.

Over at the Bernabeu, all this has been water off a pekinese's back. The president, Ramon Mendoza, is widely believed to be waiting for a couple of defeats to illuminate the exit sign for Antic, but he has been waiting an awful long time.

While opponents have been concentrating on spiking Real's big guns, an unlikely hero has shot to the top of the scoring charts without the aid of a single penalty. The scene-stealer is Fernando Hierro, ostensibly a defender/midfielder.

Hierro (Spanish for iron) is something of a stage name. His father's surname is Ruiz, but Fernando and his three brothers have chosen to be known by their mother's maiden name.

Father, Antonio played Third Division football for Velez Malaga, the town just east of Malaga where the Ruiz family have their roots. The other three brothers insist that Pepe is the most talented of the four, but he's the only one not to have played in the First Division. His ambitions went no further than the local team's No. 9 shirt and a job in building.

The eldest, Antonio, made the grade at Malaga and the younger pair, Manolo and Fernando, followed his path via the club's youth scheme.

Manolo, born in December 1962, developed into a strapping six-foot central defender, while the curly-haired Fernando, born in March 1968, was equally tall but less corpulent and more flexible around the waist.

Manolo looked poised for an illustrious career at Malaga until he fell out with manager Antonio Benitez, "A man who all but destroyed my love of the game".

Real Valladolid pulled the "Irons" out of the fire by signing Manolo. "I took Fernando with me," he recalls, "because I didn't want the same disillusionment to affect him."

The Valladolid coach at the time, Argentine-Chilean Vicente Cantatore, agreed to give Fernando a trial and was impressed enough to slot him into the reserves.

Within a year the brothers were reunited in the first team with Manolo at the heart of the defence and Fernando patrolling midfield and, with one goal in 29 games, giving no hints of goalscoring ability.

Explained

At the end of that 1987-88 season, Barcelona pounced on Hierro, and chose the wrong one. Manolo went off to Holland on a pre-season tour under new coach Johan Cruyff and within a week announced he wanted to leave. "Cruyff doesn't like my style," he explained, "and it's obvious I have no future at this club."

So he was loaned and then sold to his current club, Tenerife. A year later Real Madrid took a more careful aim and landed Fernando for £1m.

John Toshack had no qualms about throwing the 21-year-old into a central defender's position where neither the Argentine Ruggeri nor the Yugoslav Spasic managed to find answers to Real's problems at the back.

Hierro was soon called up by Luis Suarez for his international debut in a friendly against Poland in September 1989 and, thus far, new manager Vicente Miera has shown no signs of disagreeing with his predecessor's judgment.

With Real, Fernando contributed seven to Real's record tally of 107 goals and his reward for an outstanding first season was a place in Spain's 1990 World Cup squad, although his active service was reduced to a place on the bench against South Korea.

Last season, during a genuine crisis at Real, Hierro was one of the few to retain his place under four coaches, and his balance for the season was six goals in 35 appearances.

He admits that when Ricardo Rocha arrived at the start of the current season, he feared for his place. But Rocha has emerged as a powerful personalty at the heart of the defence and his vociferous leadership has been an eye-opener for the timid Hierro who shies away from the media.

The result is a new role in front of the back four which, according to Fernando, gives him a sensation of freedom to enjoy the game.

Hierro . . . now playing in front of the back four and scoring freely.

His modest tally of goals stemmed mainly from using his height at set pieces, but Antic has now given him licence to continue his runs right into scoring positions, without looking over his shoulder to worry about defensive cover.

As a result, Real look hot while the "Iron" is striking.

Their form has been so impressive that Ronald Koeman admitted before the away game against Benfica that Barcelona must now concentrate their efforts on the Champions' Cup.

Cruyff played safe by fielding an extra marker and moving Koeman forward to a position where his lack of pace could be camouflaged.

The 0-0 draw puts Barcelona on the "Wembley Way", and the players, significantly, admitted they felt happier with the reinforced defensive system.

After four months of fruitlessly searching for a scoring companion to Ivan Zamorano, Sevilla paid a reported fee of £1.5m to Hask Gradjanski for Davor Suker, 23 at the time but 24 on New Year's Day.

Suker promptly obliged with five goals in his first two games at Sanchez Pizjuan — a hat-trick in the 4-1 Spanish Cup tie against Espanol and two in the League match against Real Sociedad.

Andalusian fans duly nicknamed him Sukerman.

That cham

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

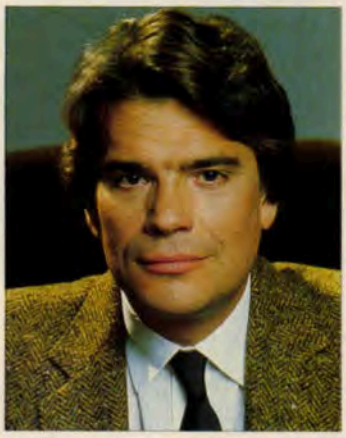
TAPIE CHARGES ON

TELEVISION turmoil, Tapie turmoil. These are torrid days in French football, despite the fact that under the splendid aegis of Michel Platini, the national team have glided into the finals of the European Championship with a superb 100 per cent qualifying record.

Will Bernard Tapie (right) ultimately prove the saviour or the destroyer of Marseille? He seems to believe in what the philosopher Hannah Arendt called creative destruction; keep knocking things down so that you can build them bigger and better.

In true dictatorial fashion, his response to the team's limp elimination from the Champions' Cup was to promise a great clear-out.

Chris Waddle will be among those to go, for a million-pound fee, a good deal less than a quarter of what he cost when he arrived from Spurs.



Impulsive

Waddle has beyond doubt much improved during his spell in France, where the *WORLD SOCCER* Footballer of the Year Jean-Pierre Papin (now interesting more than one Italian club) at once took him under his wing. But his serious failure to put away some glorious chances in the final in Bari meant that if any head was going to roll, it was unlikely to be his.

Tapie, arrogant, volatile, impulsive, is the classic entrepreneur, who never knows when to stop, who must always rush on to bigger and better achievements, whether it be in business or football.

That is why he has changed managers so often. That is why he will do such truly daft things as giving Franz Beckenbauer a £1.6 million contract.

Didier Deschamps, the powerful, versatile 23-year-old midfielder has now become a key figure in Platini's French team, as well as with Marseille. Not that Deschamps, though still so young, hasn't had his ups and downs.

He was asked of late whether Tapie's promise, or threat, to change his team radically, has had a negative effect. Deschamps replied: "We are professionals. By contract, we are tied to the club, and all the players want to fight to achieve the best possible result.

"Some will leave, others will stay, but we must all strive in the same way, if not we risk difficult moments." And goodness knows that even in the League, there have been quite a few of those.

Deschamps knows all about difficult moments, from the time when he was lent to Bordeaux. A year of prison, is what Deschamps calls it now. He was disappointed to be sent there, but he expected a great deal more than he actually found. But it was a period which toughened him in spirit, he says. He was able to play in his favourite midfield position.

"Gerard Gili" — ex-manager of Marseille — "used me well. If I hadn't improved during that year, I would not be here now. I'd have played for another club."

It would have been hard. When Deschamps first got to Marseille from the club where he made his name, Nantes, "I told myself, it isn't the same world, we're not playing in the same Championship." Managers have come and gone, but, he says, it makes no great difference. Tapie calls the shots.

In the national team, he says, Platini has instilled a tremendous team spirit, so much so that there can be no really harsh setbacks. Yes, he says, there are individual talents, but it's above all the will of the team which emerges.

The great will to win imposed by Platini can, Deschamps admits, have its negative side; such as in the game against the Czechs in Bratislava when, ten minutes from the end, with the game seemingly won, the French were still attacking, and very nearly threw away success, in consequence. But that, in these meagre times, must be a good fault.

Deschamps won't have it that elimination from the Champions' Cup has helped France by decreasing stress on the many Marseille players in the French team. He'd happily play 60 games in a season.

Will he ever go abroad? Italy, he admits, is the El Dorado, but he doesn't yet feel ready to play there.

Deschamps . . . back to his best with Marseille after a terrible year with Bordeaux.

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

Looking good for Anderlecht

ANDERLECHT brilliantly disposed of PSV Eindhoven in the Champions' Cup, and despite serious injury to Brazilian Luis Oliveira three days later, they won 1-0 against Mechelen in the league, thanks to a goal by Johnny Bosman.

Mechelen are likely to lose libero Philippe Albert. Anderlecht have concluded a provisional agreement for the transfers of Albert and Bruno Versavel at the end of the season, and Benfica are also interested.

It's not a secret that Mechelen chairman John Cordiez is going through a hard time on the financial level, particularly after his team had been eliminated in the first round of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Despite Government measures against soccer violence, with a ban of alcohol at all grounds and on coaches and trains taking fans to matches, some of the worst violence ever seen on a Belgian ground happened when Club Brugge fans rioted during a match in Antwerp.

They battled with police, and shops and cars were vandalised.

NORWAY BY SIGURD ODEGAARD

TINA'S TORMENT

POOR TINA! A mis-kick let in American Michelle Akers-Stahl for the winning goal in the Women's World Cup Final — and left Tina Svensson with a cruel memory she will carry for the rest of her life.

Norway, with fewer than four million population, did amazingly well to get to the final (reported in more detail on page 10).

How patronising of Rune Bratseth, captain of the male international team, to say: "The girls have nothing to teach us about football." He could have been kinder.

Bratseth admits that Norway had been drawn in one of the toughest groups for the US World Cup.

"Even though England, Holland and Poland are very strong football nations we will believe we have a chance," he says.

The two last qualifying matches for the European Championship in Sweden were positive for Norway. A 0-0 draw in Hungary was followed by a 1-1 draw in Italy, and these matches certainly proved that Norway are no longer a pushover — even away from home.

The optimism is gradually growing even though footballs will be replaced by skis for some months now.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SCHALKE PACK 'EM IN

HALF-TIME in the Bundesliga and a half-term assessment of the situation in German football, which has produced several positive and surprising aspects.

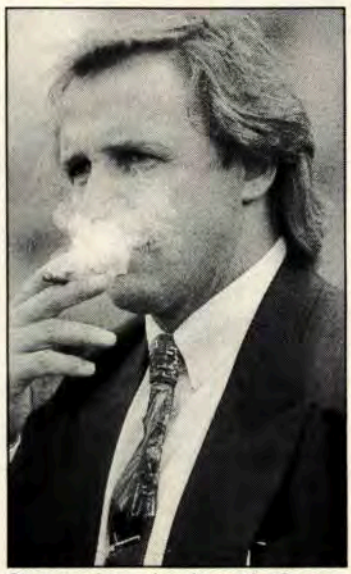
There is a substantial rise in attendances, from 3,205,751 at the corresponding stage last season to 4,787,142. The average gate is up from 20,953 to 25,329.

The most popular club, newly-promoted Schalke 04, had an amazing average of 50,300, followed by Borussia Dortmund (40,685), VfB Stuttgart (37,552), Nurnberg (36,420), Bayern Munich (35,100) and champions Kaiserslautern (32,698).

More goals have been scored, 508 against 427, though the average dropped from 2.79 to 2.69 per match in a league enlarged to 20 clubs.

Four managers were sacked — Josef Hickersberger (Fortuna Dusseldorf), Erich Rutemoller (Koln), Gerd von Bruch (Borussia Monchengladbach) and Jupp Heynckes (Bayern Munich).

Demands for a reduction of the Bundesliga First Division to 16 clubs have been rejected, and the elite class will in future have 18.



Stepanovic . . . has been the force behind Eintracht Frankfurt's revival.

From next season three foreigners will be allowed in the league per match, instead of two as at present, but clubs will be permitted to sign as many players from EC countries as they like, plus three from outside the Community.

Foreigners who have played in the country for five years, of which three were spent in youth soccer, will count as "Football-Germans" and can be fielded in unlimited numbers.

The so-called "autumn" champions, Eintracht Frankfurt, can take heart from tradition. In 28 years of the Bundesliga, the team on top at half-way went on to win the title on 20 occasions.

Whether the Frankfurter can clinch their second crown (their solitary championship was in 1959), must be questioned after recent disappointing displays.

But vice-president Bernd Holzenbein claims: "We were the better team in 17 matches and only in Dusseldorf and in Bremen did the opposition create more chances.

"That's why we are deservedly at the top, and facing the second half of the season with confidence."

Confounded

The leading figure in the Eintracht revival is their Yugoslav team manager, Dragoslav Stepanovic. When he took over on April 13, the fickle fans greeted him with abuse, but he confounded them and those experts who would not put their money on Eintracht.

Stepanovic has had his problems, not least with unruly players, but now he has converted nearly all of them.

Veteran keeper Uli Stein says: "Stepi preaches football just like Zebec and Happel did. If he continues in the same vein, he will become as great as they were."

Stein, international sweeper Manfred Binz, playmaker Andy Moller and striker Uwe Bein form the axis on which Stepanovic has based his team.

Moller confirms: "Since April we have enjoyed unbelievable success. We've reached the UEFA Cup third round and we are riding high at the top of the table."

Striker Tony Yeboah says: "Everything we've achieved, we owe to the manager. He has the knack of passing on his vast knowledge."

The Ghanaian Yeboah, incidentally, is one of ten Africans to have played in the Bundesliga. There have been 20 of them in the Second Division.

Bayern Munich's hopes of joining the championship race have largely receded, but the management engaged two players to strengthen a leaking defence.

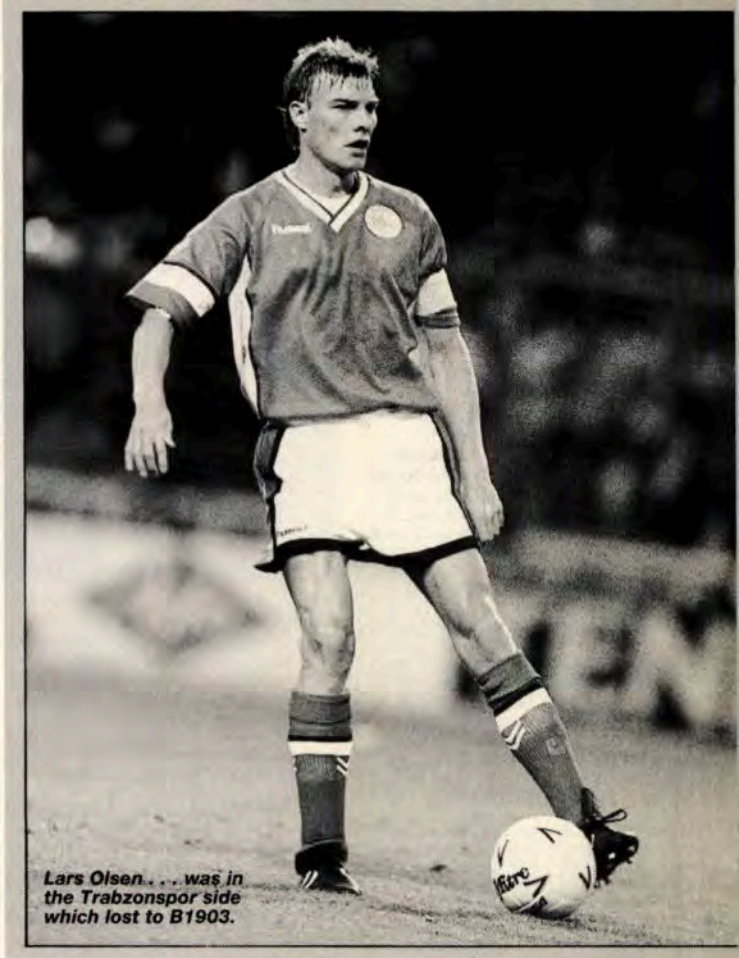
Alois Reinhardt, 30, came from Bayer Leverkusen for £300,000, and Ajax Amsterdam all-rounder Jan Wouters, 31, cost £660,000. He is now playing sweeper, and his comprehensive international experience should prove invaluable.

Several Bayern players are offered for sale, among them Olaf Thon, Manfred Bender, Michael Sternkopf, Manfred Schwabl, Roland Wohlfarth and the out-of-favour Scot Alan McInally.

The new vice-president, Franz Beckenbauer, explains that Bayern must embark on a radical rebuilding programme if they are to return to the top. This may mean that more new stars will be hired.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

HOOLIGANS HIT



Lars Olsen . . . was in the Trabzonspor side which lost to B1903.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Stielike may move

THE national team failed only narrowly to qualify for the European Championship finals, but unlike previous occasions there were no tales of depression, no recriminations and no criticism about the inadequacies of the side or the manager.

Most media experts and fans seemed to agree that there is no need for radical rebuilding. The basis and backbone of the national side are well established and this team can make a mark on the international scene.

After all the Swiss had the second-best record in Europe for 1991 until they lost 1-0 to Romania. They were unbeaten in nine games and their overall results were topped only by France.

Yet the question of a new team manager remains to be solved. Uli Stielike (left) has a new contract with the SFV until 1994, which includes a clause guaranteeing him an improved salary, but he has not signed it.

His present arrangement has until June 1992 to run, but now that the Swiss have failed to reach Sweden, he may well choose to continue his career with a club.

Determined

That club could be Neuchatel Xamax, who are determined to replace Roy Hodgson, who is frequently at odds with club president and virtual owner Gilbert Facchinetti.

Umberto Barberis, the Italian-born former international, is doing wonders with Lausanne Sports. After 20 games the club led the First Division, having lost only once.

Berberis would dearly love to win the title and then take over the national team.

He would have no problems with the squad — at least five players now play for him — and Stielike recommends him as his successor.

EURO HOPES

AFTER years in which Danish fans were admired round the world for their enthusiasm, knowledge and friendliness, a hooligan incident had to happen.

B1903's amazing run in the UEFA Cup was soured when a fan threw a firecracker on to the pitch during the third-round match against Trabzonspor. Goalkeeper Vukasin Petronovic was hit in the back, although play re-started after a brief pause.

The Danes won a controversial match 1-0, despite playing for 75 minutes with 10 men after their own goalkeeper, Palle Petersen, was sent off for a foul on Onal Kahaman.

Reserve keeper Thomas Risum went on and B1903 re-grouped to score a 42nd-minute winner from Lars Hoyer Nielsen. But victory was secondary to the inevitable repercussions.

Disciplined

They are sure to be disciplined by UEFA, and they cannot shrug off a sizeable fine with nonchalant ease.

There is also the question of the damage done to the reputation of Danish soccer, whose "Roligan" fans were once awarded the FIFA fair-play trophy.

Happily, commentators who see it as a one-off incident caused by particular circumstances probably are close to the mark. There were 3,000 Turkish fans in the 12,100 crowd, almost all local "guest" workers. As in many north European countries, the issue of such immigrants is politically volatile in times of recession.

There was high tension in the crowd for most of the night, although no violence was reported. It was certainly nothing to do with the Trabzonspor team, ironically including Danish international captain Lars Olsen.

He, like many of his national team colleagues, is now looking at an uncertain future at international level following elimination from the European Championships. Coach Richard Moller Nielsen, or a successor, must now look at bringing on a new generation of talent.

Aston Villa's Kent Nielsen said: "I have to be realistic, and I know I may have played my last game for Denmark."

Published

The future is likely to include Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel despite his involvement in a controversial book published on the eve of the final qualifying match.

The book is a record of the past five years of Danish soccer, with illuminating insights. Some comments about Moller Nielsen caused a temporary storm, which ended with Schmeichel's apologies, at the behest of playing colleagues.

He had called the coach's methods and style old-fashioned, among other fairly minor insults.

The book's more relevant claims — not made by Schmeichel — of cover-ups and financial irregularities in the Danish FA, continue to reverberate, with litigation possible.

In the new domestic superliga, the first losers were traditional giants OB Odense and Vejle. They were both relegated at the halfway stage.

Champions Brondby led by one point from Lyngby, with B1903 three points off the pace.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

One step forward

Pezzey . . . the former international libero is one of the favourites to be named as new national team coach.

AUSTRIAN football is still tottering on unsteady foundations and frantically trying to regain balance. As one eminent expert put it: "We are currently taking one step forward and two back."

Hardly had the National League decided to reduce the number of clubs in the top division, than they agreed to increase the compliment!

A decision was taken to lower the number of teams from 12 to ten, as from next season, in the hope that a smaller elite would help to raise standards.

Then the new ruling was overturned, so 1992-93 will again feature 12 clubs, and the proposed reduction will take place a year later.

Now the predominant question is the appointment of a successor to the temporary national team manager, Didi Constantini.

FA president Beppo Mauthart wants to engage an experienced coach — with one proviso: he must not be too expensive.

Suggested

One of the favourites is Bruno Pezzey, 36, once an outstanding libero in the national side, and with Eintracht Frankfurt and Wacker Innsbruck.

He has no managerial experience but has at least one powerful supporter: FC Tirol manager Ernst Happel has suggested Pezzey as a candidate, and Happel's word still carries a lot of weight.

Another possible contender is former German World Cup star Sigi Held, who is doing wonders with Admira/Wacker and may want to try his hand with the national side.

Championship favourites Austria Salzburg won all 11 home league matches in the first phase of the programme.

FK Austria are second, having scored 50 goals, and record champions Rapid trail in fifth place, seven points behind the leaders.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Macala faces critical choice

THE national team ended 1991 with a narrow defeat in Seville but retained second place in Group 1 of the European Championship qualifying tournament.

That is little consolation to Macala's troops, who know that a win in Bratislava and a point in Spain would have been enough to qualify.

Macala opted to experiment in the Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium, giving libero Glonek of high-riding Slovan his first cap and calling only on Stejskal (QPR), Kula (Stuttgart Kickers) and Vlk (FC Porto) from abroad.

His Prague/Bratislava combination filled the places remaining and did well, Nemecek equalising after Abelardo's early goal. Michel, however, scored the winner near the end.

Now supporters wait to see whether Macala calls on the old guard for the World Cup, or goes for the youth and vigour of home-based players.

The next item on the international agenda is England's visit to Prague in March, their first visit there for 17 years.

Dropped

In the same month Sparta will be continuing their challenge for a place at Wembley in the Champions' Cup. A narrow defeat in Barcelona, 3-2, and a 2-1 victory over Kiev looks promising for Dusan Uhrin's team.

In the League, the champions have some ground to make up on Slovan, who dropped only two points in 15 matches, Banik, Slavia and the surprise team, Olomouc. They are in a UEFA place in the table as well as performing well in the current European tournament.

A 2-1 victory in the Volksparkstadion is not something foreign visitors very often achieve. Hapal's two goals spelt disaster for Hamburg and their 22,000 supporters, and the small Moravian group following Sigma began to dream of a quarter-final with Real Madrid or Liverpool.

Little is going right for Dukla, the country's one-time premier team, at a time when club football has rather unexpectedly perked up. Unlike Sparta, Dukla look unlikely to be able to strengthen their squad.

Second Division Brno are making the running for a quick return, having lost only one game.

In the Slovak National League the two Kosice sides, VSZ and VSS, challenge Nitra for the one promotion place.

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HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR '94

Kalman Meszoly . . . has yet to be replaced as national team manager.

HUNGARY were drawn in the "political" group for the 1994 World Cup qualifying groups. While Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania gained their independence from the Soviet Union in time to be admitted to the draw, the likes of poor Croatia and the Ukraine did not.

Now, with Hungary yet to appoint a permanent replacement to Kalman Meszoly, the manager, they must contemplate fixtures against a war-torn Yugoslavia and what is left of a broken-up Soviet Union.

Argued

The Croatians argued that FIFA should allow the republics of Yugoslavia to contest a play-off to determine which republic would represent the country while the Soviet Union will probably be reduced bo the Moscow-based clubs. Greece, the dark horses, Iceland and Luxembourg complete the six-team group.

A home-based national squad under the management of Robert Glazer was in South America when the draw was made, losing 3-0 to Mexico before drawing 1-1 with El Salvador. Honduras were to form the third and probably final fixture of the tour which followed the end of the autumn season.

Vaci Izzo, yet to win a major title, were the half way leaders with 21 points from 15 matches. A point adrift were Siofok, the much-changed team from beside Lake Balaton. Kispest-Honved, the champions, and Videoton-Waltham, were a further point behind.

Accepted

Vaci, losing only once (3-1 away to MTK-VM in the 13th round), have been shrewdly masterminded by Janos Csank, the coach, who truly knows how to draw the best out of his willing but unexceptional players. That his team has scored more goals (29) than any other is mainly due to Ferenc Orosz, his loan-signing from Kispest, who leads the scoring list with 12 goals. Yet regarding this modest club as champions cannot be accepted easily.

Siofok, who procured several players with international experience before the season began, were expected to make an improved challenge and have done so, Pal Fischer giving them their winning goal in a 2-1 success at Pecs to complete an impressive autumn in which they achieved most wins (nine).

Kispest, later on the same day, suffered their fourth defeat, 2-1 to Videoton-Waltham, who had remained unbeaten after losing their first two games.

Kispest are lacking authority in defence, Istvan Gulyas, the goalkeeper who replaced Zsolt Petry, cannot command and direct the defensive line in the manner that the national team goalkeeper did last season; 16 goals have been conceded in half a season after 20 in a complete one.

Appealed

Something is missing in attack, too. Adrian Negrau, the second Romanian brought after Viorel Vancea, tends to be a bit selfish with the ball while the latter has missed matches because of injury. As well, the otherwise impressive Istvan Vincze peters out near goal.

Ferencvaros are awaiting their appeal over the possible loss of two points following a bizarre six minutes in the home match against Veszprem. Fradi won the game 1-0 but during the second half had both Transylvanian players, Sandor Szenes and Csaba Patkos, as well as the Soviet pair, Laszlo (Vasily) Racz and Szergej Kuznyecov, on the field.

Three foreign nationals are allowed among the 11 playing and the green-and-whites appealed on the basis that, on the morning of the match, Arpad Goncz, the Hungarian President, had formally given citizenship to those Hungarians in the Transylvanian area of Romania.

By far the most pleasing aspect of their season has been the play of Peter Lipcsei, a midfielder whose all-round play has covered up for a weak forward line.

He is their leading scorer and is comfortable in creating attacks, in front of goal and in helping the defence.

His goals in the European Cup-winners' Cup matches kept the team's hopes alive and he rightly won selection in the national team. Another "find" in the autumn season was Ferenc Hamori, the MTK-VM prodigy and 19 only last October.

Jozsef Verebes, his manager at the Budapest club, must be looking forward to developing this obvious talent.

ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Some cause for optimism

INTERNATIONAL football will be in short supply in the spring, friendlies apart. Defeating Bulgaria, but insufficiently, was an ironic twist at the end of a topsy-turvy European Championship qualifying group.

The Romanians could have won it, but at least the results give rise to optimism for the World Cup.

There is less of that commodity after Genoa's visit to Bucharest. Steaua's 1-0 defeat in the UEFA Cup was the last autumnal straw.

National trainer Mircea Radulescu's contract has been extended. Anything else would have been a nonsense, given that he took ten points out of a possible 12. He also assumes the post of technical director at the Federation.

Radulescu plans not to have a training camp with players based abroad until late summer 1992, and for the moment will select only "locals".

One of them under his microscope is Dinamo's recent signing from Otelul, Gerstenmajer, who scored twice in the home victory over Galati.

Radulescu . . . extended contract.

This put the ex-champions five points clear of Petrolul at the top and, probably more importantly, six ahead of Steaua and "U" Craiova, who have at last run into some form after early elimination from Europe.

With only 13 matches played by the beginning of December there will be a busy second half of the season.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

CSKA AHEAD BY ONE

Sirakov . . . top scorer at halfway.

CSKA's bad run up to the last week of the "Autumn Championship" was hardly improved by a 1-1 home draw with Botev, both goals coming in the first eight minutes.

Letchko, second to Sirakov of Levski in the scoring charts, hit a post within seconds of the start. Two minutes later Nankov gave CSKA the lead, and then Bakalov put Botev back on terms.

So CSKA go in to 1992 with a single point advantage over Levski.

One point from the last three games was not championship form and Sirakov & Co, who ended the half-season with a 2-0 win over Slavia in the National Stadium, will be fancying their chances.

Lok Plovdiv and Lov Sofia were locked in a goalless draw, while at the wrong end of the table 18th placed Hebar beat Minior, 17th, by 2-0. Fortunately for both, Dobrudzha, just above them, lost to last season's ailing champions, Etar.

Hebar's first win of the season was largely thanks to Pachev's two goals on his return from Israel.

In the Cup, Slavia were shock losers to Third Division Dorostoy, and Cernomorets and Minior were other casualties.

The last 16 play before the winter break but — CSKA supporters apart — there will be little New Year football cheer without clubs in Europe, without representation in Sweden and without the many players who have left and those who doubtless will do so during the pause.

Managers and coaches will be looking over their shoulders even more regularly if the Hebar experience sets the tone. Trankov set a record: one month in office, four defeats, and out he went, the sixth to be dismissed in the First Division this season.

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ISRAEL BY NADAV YA'ACOBY

Israel need to find a team

But first they must name a coach

THE draw for the World Cup qualifying phase has put Israel back in Europe, after a gap of 12 years. Israel will play in Group 6 with France, Sweden, Austria, Bulgaria and Finland.

The reaction after the draw was mixed. Almost everybody — players, coaches, officials and journalists — said that the chances of Israel finishing second in this difficult group are very slim.

But some said that nobody should write Israel off before the qualifying matches start, and with a bit of luck and some good results at home — which is a realistic proposition — Israel can surprise Europe and reach the US in 1994.

Finished

The first problem is that, at the moment, the national team is non-existent. The last game the full national team played was way back in October 1990, a 3-0 defeat against the Soviet Union in Moscow.

After that the two national coaches, Yitzhak Shneor and Ya'acov Grundman, worked with just the Olympic (U-21) team, which finished second in its European group (after Sweden) and was eliminated.

At the moment there is no coach for the national team, which will soon have to start work towards the World Cup qualifying games.

There are several candidates, Gyora Spiegel, Avraham Grant, Shlomo Sharf, and surprise, surprise, Ya'acov Grundman . . . (but no Shneor).

Anyway, the new coach will not be nominated until after the meeting in Vienna in January, when the dates for the Group 6 games will be fixed.

After 10 rounds in the league, it seems that Maccabi Tel Aviv, who haven't won the championship since 1979, are on the right track.

Under the guidance of young Avraham Grant, Maccabi play the most attractive and attacking football in Israel.

They scored 32 goals in 10 games, and conceded just 15.

They won 8-1 against Hapoel Jerusalem, beat champions Maccabi Haifa 2-1 and won the big Tel Aviv derby 4-0 against arch-rivals Hapoel.

That was one of the sweetest victories for Maccabi Tel Aviv since a 5-0 win 20 years ago.

The big names in the team are the young midfielder Avi Nimni, current top scorer in the league with 10 goals and right-back Avi Cohen — not to be confused with the famous Avi Cohen who played for Liverpool.

The ex-Anfield man is now the coach of Maccabi Nathanya, who are third in the table.

Ronnie Rosenthal, the current Liverpool player is one of only two survivors in European football.

The other is Shalom Tikva, who moved recently from Standard Liege of Belgium to Lens of France.

Started

Goalkeeper Bonnie Ginzburg was fed-up with sitting for more than two years on the bench at Glasgow Rangers, and is now back home, with unfashionable Maccabi Yavhe.

Eli Ohana, one of Mechlen's stars when they won the Cup-winners' Cup in 1988, is now back with his former club, Beitar Jerusalem.

The difference is that when he left, the team had just been crowned as champions. When he returned, he found the team in the Second Division.

Ohana only started to play in the sixth round of matches but from then on he scored almost at will — seven goals in five games and Beitar are now in the top half of the table.

Ginsburg . . . back home with Maccabi Yavhe after two wasted seasons with Glasgow Rangers.

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TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

MILNE'S ANGELS BATTLE THROUGH

Milne . . . impossible victory.

BESIKTAS stayed on course for a second successive championship by winning a vital match that caused some political embarrassment.

Crowd trouble followed their 3-2 away win over Trabzonspor, after goalkeeper Bako had given a "victory" sign to the crowd.

Hundreds invaded the pitch, the players fled to the dressing rooms, and the Besiktas party were unable to leave the ground until more than two hours had passed.

Several people were injured, including two policemen.

Such a demonstration could lead to closure of the ground, but that is thought to be unlikely . . . Mehmet Ali Yalmas, the minister responsible for sport in the newly-elected government, is a former president of Trabzonspor.

That and the club's good run in the UEFA Cup could mean a diplomatic decision by the Football Federation, and a modest punishment.

Crowd trouble seemed likely even before the start of the match, with Besiktas manager Gordon Milne referring to the intimidating atmosphere and saying: "This is hell and we're the angels."

After the 3-2 victory, Milne said: "I can't believe we won. We did the impossible, considering our injuries."

Besiktas were without Metin and Ali, and Recep played the whole match with a swollen foot.

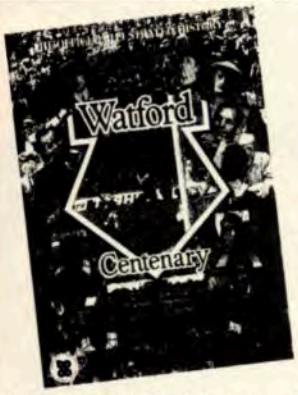
Apologised

Feyyaz (2) and Turan scored the goals, and Bako — who later apologised for his unfortunate gesture — made some fine saves.

Trabzonspor did not produce their European form, although they had a partial excuse in the loss of Ünal, who was hurt after 18 minutes.

So Besiktas stayed top, two points ahead of Fenerbahce. They had a fine 3-1 home won over Genclerbirligi, with Tanju scoring twice.

Galatasary, a point further away in third place, struggled to a 2-1 home victory over lowly Boluspor, with Tugay missing a penalty.



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GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Soviets won't play without pay

Savichev (top), Litovchenko (above left) and Protasov (above right) are refusing to play until they are paid.

ONE of the best known and most successful Greek soccer teams is in trouble again.

Olympiakos may be near the top of the First Division, but off the pitch there are administrative problems which are affecting the players.

For the first two matches of December the three Soviet stars with the Piraeus side have refused to play because they have not been paid.

All three (Oleg Protasov, Gennady Litovchenko and Oleg Savichev) have asked for their three-year contracts to be broken and want to leave Olympiakos now.

The Soviets are seeking help from a special committee which deals with financial differences between clubs and players for help in getting their salaries.

Olympiakos' Soviet coach and former Kiev Dynamo star Oleg Blokhin said that he would leave the club too if the players don't get their pay.

Protasov and Savichev said they have not been paid for nine months and Litovchenko says he is owed five months salary.

Angry

"Knowing what is being done behind my back by the administration, how can I play once again with Olympiakos?" asked Litovchenko.

Without the Soviet stars, Olympiakos lost 5-2 away to Xanthi. It was one of the worst defeats for Olympiakos in its long history.

"This is my last match on the bench with Olympiakos," an angry Blokhin remarked after the contest, upset at the team's performance and the atmosphere all week at the club. "I don't feel like saying anything else today."

The problems for Olympiakos have been brewing for years, ever since its president, George Koskotas, was involved in embezzling money from his bank.

However its current president, Argyric Saliarelis, is also in trouble with the law. He is facing five years in prison for owing money to the club.

"I don't owe anybody anything," Saliarelis said in a television interview. He said that Lajos Detari was sold to Bologna for $2.8 million and not $6 million as charged by Bologna. Kiev Dynamo are asking for $7.5 million they say Olympiakos owes them for the transfer of Protasov and Litovhenko.

As for being charged that he failed to pass all Olympiakos' income in the accounting books last year, Saliarelis said "if I put that money in my pocket I would be the superman of fraud." He has been charged by his cousin Nikos Pteroudis of owing him 50 million drachmas.

Meanwhile, Larissa say they are still owed 100 million drachmas for the transfer of Vasilis Karapialis to Olympiakos and says if they do not get it soon, they will seek his return.

Apollon continue to be the surprise team in the First Division this season with a 1-0 home win over Corinthos lifting them into the top position. Panathinaikos, the lone Greek team still in European competition, and AEK share the second spot followed by Olympiakos in fourth place.

Panathinaikos has bought Argentine player Juan Jose Borelli of Rover Plate in an effort to boost their scoring.

However the new player for the Athens squad played just one half of a match and failed to show anything spectacular and missed the next match because of a slight knee injury.

Attention

After the poor showing against Holland in Salonika (2-0 loss) and the exit from European competition, Greek national coach Antonis Georgiadis has dropped six players who started against Holland for the final match in the group at Malta. The six players were caught celebrating at a local nightclub before the crucial match and did not play well against Holland.

"It's a shame. The national team needs more than just a striker, it needs players in midfield and in defence as well. The teams must give more attention to the younger players, to create schools where veteran players can teach them," said former national team striker and now politician Thomas Mavros.

Aris Patras boasts one of the youngest professional teams in the world. The squad plays in the Fourth Division and has the youngest team in Greece with the average age just 19!

Aris finished first in the local league last season, 13 points ahead of the second placed team! They scored the most goals in the league, had the best defence and went throughout the entire season without a player getting a red card!

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WS/JAN

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: (REST OF WORLD)

EUROPE

Extra-preliminary matches

11.09.90	Liechtenstein v Austria	0-6
16.10.90	Austria v Liechtenstein	10-0

CONCACAF

2 participants to qualify

Caribbean Zone

1st Round

28.10.90	Puerto Rico v Jamaica	0-3
12.11.90	Jamaica v Puerto Rico	2-0
21.10.90	Haiti v Cuba	1-1
28.10.90	Cuba v Haiti	2-2
28.10.90	Aruba v St Lucia	3-3
11.11.90	Aruba v St Lucia	0-9
29.10.90	Antigua v Barbados	0-0
11.11.90	Barbados v Antigua	5-0
21.10.90	Dutch Antilles v Surinam	0-1
04.11.90	Surinam v Dutch Antilles	0-0

2nd Round

17.02.91	Barbados v Surinam	0-0
10.03.91	Surinam v Barbados	2-1
24.02.91	Trin. & Tobago v Jamaica	1-0
03.03.91	Jamaica v Trin. & Tobago	1-0
10.03.91	St Lucia v Haiti	1-1
24.03.91	Haiti v St Lucia	2-1

Central Zone

17.03.91	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2
04.04.91	Honduras v Guatemala	2-0
17.03.91	Belize v El Salvador	0-2
24.03.91	El Salvador v Belize	3-0

Panama v Costa Rica*

*= Costa Rica suspended from all FIFA competitions with age limit. Panama qualified for 3rd round.

Caribbean Zone

3rd Round

Group winners & best runner-up go through

Group A

01.09.91	Surinam v Mexico	1-1
05.09.91	Honduras v Mexico	1-1
11.09.91	Mexico v Honduras	0-1
16.09.91	Mexico v Surinam	6-0
24.09.91	Honduras v Surinam	2-0
06.10.91	Surinam v Honduras	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Honduras	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Mexico	4	1	2	1	8	3	4
Surinam	4	0	1	3	1	11	1

Honduras qualify for final Round.

Group B

05.05.91	Canada v Trin. & Tobago	3-0
12.05.91	El Salvador v Canada	3-1
19.05.91	Trin. & Tobago v Canada	1-3
14.07.91	El Salvador v Trin. & Tobago#	2-0
28.07.91	Trin. & Tobago v El Salvador	2-0
31.08.91	Canada v El Salvador	4-0

#= walkover.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Canada	4	3	0	1	11	4	6
El Salvador	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Trin. & Tobago	4	1	0	3	3	8	2

Canada qualify for final Round.

Group C

23.06.91	United States v Haiti	8-0
14.07.91	Panama v United States	1-1
20.07.91	United States v Panama	7-1
26.08.91	Haiti v United States	0-2
21.09.91	Panama v Haiti	2-2
30.11.91	Haiti v Panama	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
United States	4	3	1	0	18	2	7
Panama	3	0	2	1	4	10	2
Haiti	3	0	1	2	2	12	1

United States qualify for final Round.

ASIA

3 participants to qualify

West-Central Asia - 1st Round

Group A

30.08.91	Yemen v Pakistan	1-0
	Qatar v Iran	2-0
06.09.91	Iran v UAE	2-2
	Yemen v Qatar	1-1
13.09.91	Pakistan v Qatar	0-4
	UAE v Yemen	2-1
18.09.91	Yemen v Iran	1-1
	Pakistan v UAE	0-1
23.09.91	Qatar v UAE	2-1
	Iran v Pakistan	5-0
28.09.91	Pakistan v Yemen	0-2
	Iran v Qatar	2-0
04.10.91	UAE v Iran	0-1
	Qatar v Yemen	3-0
09.10.91	Qatar v Pakistan	2-0
	Yemen v UAE	0-0
14.10.91	Iran v Yemen	2-1
	UAE v Pakistan	2-0
20.10.91	UAE v Qatar	0-2
	Pakistan v Iran	0-6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Qatar	8	6	1	1	16	4	13
Iran	8	5	2	1	19	6	12
UAE	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Yemen	8	2	3	3	7	9	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	0	23	0

Qatar qualify for 2nd Round.

Group B

(Tournament in Hyderabad, India)

04.08.91	Oman v India	1-1
05.08.91	Lebanon v Syria	0-1
07.08.91	Kuwait v Oman	1-0
09.08.91	Syria v Kuwait	1-1
08.08.91	Lebanon v India	3-1
10.08.91	Oman v Lebanon	1-0
11.08.91	Syria v India	1-0
12.08.91	Lebanon v Kuwait	1-2
13.08.91	Oman v Syria	0-0
14.08.91	Kuwait v India	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kuwait	4	3	1	0	6	3	7
Syria	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Oman	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Lebanon	4	1	0	3	4	5	2
India	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Kuwait qualify for 2nd Round.

Group C

(Tournament in Bahrain)

19.09.91	Bahrain v Sri Lanka	6-0
19.09.91	S. Arabia v Jordan	1-2
22.09.91	Bahrain v Jordan	4-0
23.09.91	Sri Lanka v S. Arabia	1-5
25.09.91	Jordan v Sri Lanka	7-0
	S. Arabia v Bahrain	2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bahrain	3	2	0	1	10	2	4
Saudi Arabia	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Jordan	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
Sri Lanka	3	0	0	3	1	18	0

Bahrain qualify for 2nd Round.

2nd Round

(Tournament in Malaysia)

18.01.92	Bahrain v Qatar	
18.01.92	S Korea v Kuwait	
19.01.92	Japan v China	
21.01.92	Bahrain v S Korea	
21.01.92	China v Qatar	
21.01.92	Kuwait v Japan	
24.01.92	Qatar v S Korea	
25.01.92	Kuwait v China	
25.01.92	Japan v Bahrain	
27.01.92	S Korea v Japan	
27.01.92	Bahrain v China	
28.01.92	Qatar v Kuwait	
30.01.92	Japan v Qatar	
30.01.92	China v S Korea	
30.01.92	Kuwait v Bahrain	

EAST-ASIA

1st Round

Group D

1st Leg (S Korea/Seoul)

18.05.91	S Korea v Philippines	10-0
	Bangladesh v Thailand	2-3
20.05.91	Malaysia v Philippines	5-0
	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-6
22.05.91	Bangladesh v Malaysia	0-1
	Thailand v S Korea	1-2
24.05.91	Thailand v Malaysia	4-1
	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-8
26.05.91	Philippines v Thailand	1-7
	S Korea v Malaysia	0-0

2nd Leg (Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur)

29.06.91	Malaysia v Thailand	1-0
	S Korea v Philippines	7-0
01.07.91	S Korea v Malaysia	2-0
	Thailand v Bangladesh	4-0
03.07.91	Bangladesh v S Korea	0-1
	Philippines v Malayasia	0-5
05.07.91	Philippines v Bangladesh	0-3
	Thailand v S Korea	0-2
07.07.91	Thailand v Philippines	6-0
	Malaysia v Bangladesh	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
S Korea	8	7	1	0	30	1	15
Thailand	8	5	0	3	25	9	10
Malaysia	8	4	1	3	13	7	9
Bangladesh	8	3	0	5	14	15	6
Philippines	8	0	0	8	1	51	0

South Korea qualify for 2nd round

Group E

1st Leg

(N Korea/Pyongyang)

15.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-12
17.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	0-2
	Nepal v Maldives	0-1
19.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	4-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
21.08.91	Nepal v China	0-4
	Maldives v Singapore	1-1
23.08.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-1

2nd Leg

(China/Beijing)

26.08.91	N Korea v Nepal	5-0
	Maldives v China	0-17
28.08.91	Singapore v N Korea	1-3
	Nepal v Maldives	2-1
30.08.91	N Korea v Maldives	7-0
	China v Singapore	3-0
01.09.91	Nepal v China	0-10
	Maldives v Singapore	2-4
03.09.91	Nepal v Singapore	1-4
	China v N Korea	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
China	8	7	1	0	51	1	15
N Korea	8	6	1	1	27	3	13
Singapore	8	3	1	4	14	16	7
Maldives	8	1	1	6	5	47	3
Nepal	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

China qualify for 2nd Round.

Group F

08.06.91	Hong Kong v Taiwan	1-1
09.06.91	Indonesia v Japan	1-2
16.06.91	Indonesia v Taiwan	2-1
	Hong Kong v Japan	3-1
23.06.91	Indonesia v Hong Kong	0-0
	Taiwan v Japan	0-3
29.06.91	Japan v Taiwan	2-0
30.06.91	Hong Kong v Indonesia	1-1
07.07.91	Japan v Hong Kong	3-0
	Taiwan v Indonesia	3-1
13.07.91	Japan v Indonesia	3-1
14.07.91	Taiwan v Hong Kong	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Japan	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Hong Kong	6	2	3	1	6	6	7
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Taiwan	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

Japan qualify for 2nd Round.

AFRICA

3 participants to qualify

2nd Round

Group 1

	Mauritius v **Zambia	
10.08.91	Sudan v Egypt	1-2
11.08.91	Mozambique v Uganda	0-1
23.08.91	Egypt v Sudan	2-0
24.08.91	Uganda v Mozambique	3-1
	*Ethiopia v Malawi	
	**Gabon v Cameroon	
	*Angola v Ivory Coast	

Group 2

10.08.91	Tunisia v Senegal	3-1
11.08.91	Algeria v Sierra Leone	0-0
11.08.91	Morocco v Mauritania	6-0
	Liberia* v Togo	
	Ghana v Guinea**	
11.08.91	Zaire* v Zimbabwe	
23.08.91	Mauritania v Morocco	0-0
24.08.91	Sierra Leone v Algeria	1-0
25.08.91	Senegal v Tunisia	1-0
	Togo v Liberia*	
	Zimbabwe v Zaire*	

3rd Round

Group 1

25.10.91	Egypt v Malawi	3-1
26.10.91	Uganda v Cameroon	1-2
09.11.91	Malawi v Egypt	0-0
10.11.91	Cameroon v Uganda	2-0
	Mauritius v Ivory Coast*	

Egypt, Cameroon & Mauritius qualify for 4th Round.

Group 2

27.10.91	Tunisia v Zimbabwe	3-1
27.10.91	Ghana v Sierra Leone	2-1
09.11.91	Sierra Leone v Ghana	2-2
10.11.91	Zimbabwe v Tunisia	5-2
	Togo* v Morocco	

Zimbabwe, Ghana & Morocco qualify for 4th Round.

4th Round

08.02.92	Cameroon v Morocco	
09.02.92	Mauritius v Ghana	
09.02.91	Zimbabwe v Egypt	
21.02.92	Egypt v Zimbabwe	
21.02.91	Morocco v Cameroon	
22.02.92	Ghana v Mauritius	

*= Withdrew from tournament.

**= Suspended from tournament.

OCEANIA

0 or 1 participant to qualify

1st Round

19.05.91	Australia v Papua NG	4-0
22.05.91	Australia v N.Zealand	2-0
26.05.91	Australia v Fiji	7-0
07.11.91	New Zealand v Fiji	4-0
09.11.91	Papua NG v Fiji	0-2
11.11.91	Papua NG v Australia	0-5
13.11.91	N.Zealand v Australia	1-2
15.11.91	Papua NG v N.Zealand	1-3
16.11.91	Fiji v Australia	0-3
18.11.91	N.Zealand v Papua NG	4-2
20.11.91	Fiji v N.Zealand	0-0
22.11.91	Fiji v Papua NG	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Australia	6	6	0	0	23	1	12
New Zealand	6	3	1	2	12	7	7
Fiji	6	1	2	3	3	15	3
Papua NG	6	0	1	5	2	19	1

Australia qualify for play-off against team from Europe/Israel.

SOUTH AMERICA

2 to qualify

Group A

Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

Group B

Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Ecuador.

31.01.92	Paraguay v Venezuela
01.02.92	Brazil v Peru
02.02.92	Uruguay v Ecuador
02.02.92	Argentina v Bolivia
03.02.92	Peru v Colombia
03.02.92	Brazil v Paraguay
04.02.92	Uruguay v Chile
04.02.92	Argentina v Ecuador
05.02.92	Peru v Venezuela
05.02.92	Brazil v Colombia
06.02.92	Ecuador v Bolivia
06.02.92	Argentina v Chile
07.02.92	Colombia v Venezuela
07.02.92	Paraguay v Peru
08.02.92	Uruguay v Bolivia
08.02.92	Chile v Ecuador
09.02.92	Paraguay v Colombia
09.02.92	Brazil v Venezuela
10.02.92	Chile v Bolivia
10.02.92	Argentina v Uruguay

Final Round:

12.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group A
12.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group B
14.02.92	1st Group B v 2nd Group B
14.02.92	1st Group A v 2nd Group A
16.02.92	2nd Group A v 2nd Group B
16.02.92	1st Group A v 1st Group B

England's Mark Draper fights for possession with a Polish defender.

UNDER-21 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

The UEFA Under-21 tournament also doubles as the Olympic qualifying tournament with the exception of Scotland, England, San Marino and Luxembourg who do not take part in the Olympics. Spain qualify as hosts.

GROUP 1:

29.05.90	Iceland v Albania	0-0
04.09.90	Iceland v France	0-1
25.09.90	Czechoslovakia v Iceland	7-0
09.10.90	Spain v Iceland	2-0
12.10.90	France v Czechoslovakia	1-2
13.11.90	Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-1
16.11.90	Albania v France	0-0
18.12.90	Spain v Albania	1-0
19.02.91	France v Spain	0-1
29.03.91	France v Albania	3-0
30.04.91	Albania v Czechoslovakia	1-5
25.05.91	Albania v Iceland	2-1
04.06.91	Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
03.09.91	Czechoslovakia v France	1-0
24.09.91	Iceland v Spain	1-0
11.10.91	Spain v France	0-0
15.10.91	Czechoslovakia v Albania	3-0
12.11.91	Spain v Czechoslovakia	1-1
19.11.91	France v Iceland	2-1
17.12.91	Albania v Spain	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
CZECH	8	7	1	0	23	4	15
France	8	3	2	3	7	5	8
Spain	7	3	2	2	6	5	8
Albania	7	1	2	4	3	13	4
Iceland	8	1	1	6	3	15	3

GROUP 2:

11.09.90	Scotland v Romania	2-0
11.09.90	Switzerland v Bulgaria	0-2
16.10.90	Romania v Bulgaria	0-1
16.10.90	Scotland v Switzerland	4-2
13.11.90	Bulgaria v Scotland	2-0
26.03.91	Scotland v Bulgaria	1-0
02.04.91	Switzerland v Romania	0-2
30.04.91	Bulgaria v Switzerland	1-0
10.09.91	Switzerland v Scotland	0-3
15.10.91	Romania v Scotland	1-3
12.11.91	Romania v Switzerland	1-3
19.11.91	Bulgaria v Romania	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SCOTLAND	6	5	0	1	13	5	10
Bulgaria	6	4	0	2	6	2	8
Romania	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Switzerland	6	1	0	5	5	13	2

GROUP 3:

11.09.90	USSR v Norway	2-2
09.10.90	Norway v Hungary	3-1
18.10.90	Italy v Hungary	1-0
18.04.91	Hungary v USSR	0-0
02.05.91	Hungary v Italy	0-1
05.06.91	Norway v Italy	6-0
12.06.91	Italy v USSR	1-0
27.08.91	Norway v USSR	0-1
24.09.91	USSR v Hungary	2-0
16.10.91	USSR v Italy	1-1
29.10.91	Hungary v Norway	0-1
13.11.91	Italy v Norway	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
ITALY	6	4	1	1	6	8	9
Norway	6	3	1	2	13	5	7
USSR	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Hungary	6	0	1	5	1	8	1

GROUP 4:

17.10.90	San Marino v Denmark	0-3
30.10.90	Yugoslavia v Austria	1-0
12.11.90	Denmark v Yugoslavia	3-0
21.11.90	San Marino v Austria	0-2
13.03.91	Yugoslavia v San Marino	5-0
03.04.91	Austria v San Marino	3-0
17.04.91	Denmark v San Marino	7-0
30.04.91	Yugoslavia v Denmark	2-6
04.06.91	Denmark v Austria	1-1
02.10.91	San Marino v Yugoslavia	0-1
08.10.91	Austria v Denmark	1-1
12.11.91	Austria v Yugoslavia	1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DENMARK	6	4	2	0	21	4	10
Yugoslavia	6	4	0	2	11	10	8
Austria	6	2	2	2	8	5	6
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	21	0

GROUP 5:

30.10.90	Luxembourg v Germany	0-3
26.02.91	Belgium v Luxembourg	2-0
30.04.91	Germany v Belgium	3-1
10.09.91	Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
19.11.91	Belgium v Germany	0-3
17.12.91	Germany v Luxembourg	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GERMANY	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Belgium	4	2	0	2	5	6	4
Luxembourg	3	0	0	3	0	7	0

GROUP 6:

11.09.90	Finland v Portugal	0-1
16.10.90	Portugal v Holland	0-0
18.12.90	Malta v Holland	1-4
08.02.91	Malta v Portugal	1-3
19.02.91	Portugal v Malta	2-0
12.03.91	Holland v Malta	7-1
16.04.91	Holland v Finland	1-0
04.06.91	Finland v Holland	1-7
26.06.91	Finland v Malta	3-1
10.09.91	Portugal v Finland	2-0
15.10.91	Holland v Portugal	1-1
16.10.91	Malta v Finland	1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
HOLLAND	6	4	2	0	20	4	10
Portugal	6	4	2	0	9	2	10
Finland	6	2	0	4	7	13	4
Malta	6	0	0	6	5	22	0

GROUP 7:

16.10.90	England v Poland	0-1
16.10.90	Rep.Ireland v Turkey	3-2
13.11.90	Rep.Ireland v England	0-3
13.11.90	Turkey v Poland	0-1
26.03.91	England v Rep.Ireland	3-0
16.04.91	Poland v Turkey	2-0
30.04.91	Rep.Ireland v Poland	1-2
30.04.91	Turkey v England	2-2
15.10.91	England v Turkey	2-0
15.10.91	Poland v Rep.Ireland	2-0
12.11.91	Poland v England	2-1
12.11.91	Turkey v Rep.Ireland	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
POLAND	6	6	0	0	10	2	11
England	6	3	1	2	11	5	7
Turkey	6	1	1	4	6	11	3
Rep.Ireland	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

GROUP 8:

31.10.90	Sweden v Greece	5-0
21.11.90	Cyprus v Sweden	1-1
21.11.90	Greece v Israel	2-2
20.03.91	Israel v Cyprus	4-0
17.04.91	Cyprus v Greece	1-0
01.05.91	Sweden v Cyprus	6-0
16.10.91	Sweden v Israel	2-1
30.10.91	Israel v Greece	2-1
14.11.91	Israel v Sweden	0-0
20.11.91	Greece v Sweden	1-3
04.12.91	Cyprus v Israel	1-2
18.12.91	Greece v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SWEDEN	6	4	2	0	17	3	10
Israel	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Cyprus	5	1	1	3	3	13	3
Greece	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Oct 30 = Abidjan - CEDEAO (W Africa) Cup semi-final
Senegal 3 (Sarr 22, Diagne 60, Gueye 88)
Ghana 2 (Akonor 62, Acheampong 75)
HT: 1-0.

Oct 31 = Abidjan - CEDEAO (W Africa) Cup semi-final
Ivory Coast 2 (Sie 10, A Traore 30)
Nigeria 0
HT: 2-0.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Nov 9 = Abidjan (Ivory Coast) - CEDEAO (W Africa) Cup, third-place match
Ghana 1 (N Mensah 11)
Nigeria 0
HT: 1-0.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Nov 10 = Abidjan - CEDEAO Cup Final
Ivory Coast 1 (A Traore 7)
Senegal 0
HT: 1-0.

Nov 10 = San Jose - intl friendly
Costa Rica 2
Guatemala 1
Att: 8,000.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Nov 13 = Seville - Euro chp gp 1
Spain 2 (Abelardo 10, Michel 79pen)
Czechoslovakia 1 (Vaclav Nemecek 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,500. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swz).
Spain: Zubizarreta - Abelardo, Soler, Solozabal, Sanchis, Hierro, Moya (Conte 59), Michel, Butragueno, Martin Vazquez (Nadal 46), Vizcaino.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal - Suchoparek, Glonek, Vlk (Grussmann 65), Kristov, Nemecek, Nemec, Novotny, Pecko, Kula, Dubovsky (Latal 79).

● Spain provided new manager Vicente Miera with a first victory since he took over from Luis Suarez after it became clear that Spain's European Championship dream was over.

Nov 13 = Bucharest - Euro chp gp 2
Romania 1 (Mateut 72)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol).
Romania: Lung - A Popescu, G Popescu, Sandoi, Klein (Munteanu 3), Lupescu, D Timofte (Sabau 46), Hagi, Mateut, Lacatus, Raducioiu.
Switzerland: Huber - Hottiger, Sforza, Herr, Schepull, Ohrel, B Sutter (Bonvin 63), Herrmann (Bickel 77), A Sutter, Turkyilmaz, Chapuisat.

● A late goal from Mateut, back on duty for Romania for the first time in six months, put them into the group driving seat. Romanian manager Mircea Radulescu said: "All out players fought for their lives to keep the group alive." Swiss coach Uli Stielike admitted: "We made a mistake in playing to stop them scoring. We should have been more positive." Stielike is unlikely to stay as Switzerland manager.

Nov 13 = Genoa - Euro chp gp 3
Italy 1 (Ruggiero Rizzitelli 82)
Norway 1 (Jan Ivar Jakobsen 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Assenmacher (Ger).
Italy: Pagliuca - Costacurta, Maldini, Berti (De Napoli 66), Ferri, Baresi, Baiano (Rizzitelli 55), Ancelotti, Vialli, Zola, Eranio.
Norway: Thorstvedt - Loken, Ahlsen, Bratseth, Lydersen, Ronny Johnsen (Jan Ove Pedersen 46), Rekdal, Ingebrigtsen, Fjortoft, Sorloth, Jakobsen (Berg 77).

● Arrigo Sacchi's first match in charge of Italy was a disappointment after all the preceding hype. He kept virtually the same defence as predecessor Vicini, surprisingly recalled his old Milan favourite Ancelotti in midfield then tried some interesting experiments up front with young first division stars such as Baiano and Zola. In general, they appeared overawed by proceedings. Norway took the lead on the hour with an angled drive from Jakobsen and Italy did not pull level until Rizzitelli shot home a Vialli pass from close range eight minutes from the end.

Nov 13 = Larnaca - Euro chp gp 3
Cyprus 0
Soviet Union 3 (Oleg Protasov 27, Sergei Yuran 79, Andrei Kanchelskis 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Waddell (Scot)
Cyprus: Charitou - Costa, Pittas, Constantinou, Socratous, Larkou, Koliandris (Hadjiloukas 75), Savva, Savvides (Soteriou 46), Ioannu, Charalambous.
Sov Union: Kharin - Chernishev, Kulkov, Tsveiba, Galiamin, Shalimov, Mikhailichenko, Kanchelskis, Oleg Kuznetsov, Protasov (Mostovoi 70), Kolivanov (Yuran 46).

● The Soviets needed only a point to make sure of their place in the finals. Shalimov robbed Savva in midfield to set up the first goal for Protasov and the Cypriots then held out until 11 minutes from time. First Charitou fumbled a Yuran header and the substitute followed up to score. Then Charitou parried another drive and this time Kanchelskis was on hand.

Nov 13 = Odense - Euro chp gp 4
Denmark 2 (Fleming Povlsen 22, 36)
Northern Ireland 1 (Gerry Taggart 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,881. **Ref:** Spirin (SU).
Denmark: Schmeichel - Olsen, K Nielsen, Vilfort, Sivebaek, Christofte, Povlsen, John Molby, Henrik Larsen, Piechnik, Elstrup (Pingel 53).
N Ireland: Fettis - Hill, Donaghy, Taggart, Worthington, McBride, Hughes, Magilton, K Wilson, Black (Dennison 83), Clarke (Dowie 67).

● Denmark won the match but failed to gain a place in the finals. They attacked from the start. Povlsen converted a John Molby pass for the first goal then shot the second home from inside the penalty box. A rare Irish attack in the second half brought a consolation goal from a Taggart header. Denmark coach Richard Moller Nielsen said: "We're disappointed not to be going to the finals — after all, we dropped only three points in the group."

Nov 13 = Vienna - Euro chp gp 4
Austria 0
Yugoslavia 2 (Vladen Lukic 19, Dejan Savicevic 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** D'Elia (Ita).
Austria: Knaller - Zsak, Garger, Walter Kogler, Artner, Herbert Gager, Stoger (Keglevits 53), A Herzog, Lainer, A Ogris, Westerthaler (Baur 73).
Yugoslavia: Omerovic - Hadzibegic, Vujacic, Milanic, Novak (Branco Brnovic 81), Jokanovic, Savicevic, Bazdarevic, Mihajlovic, Lukic (Mijatovic 46), Pancev.

● Yugoslavia clinched their place in the European finals with an easy victory over a weak, experimental Austrian side. Around 500 police were present in case of trouble among rival factions in the Yugoslav support. But there was little to raise any temperatures in the game. Savicevic created the first goal for Lukic then seized on a disastrous backpass from Gager to score the second himself.

Nov 13 = Cardiff - Euro chp gp 5
Wales 1 (Paul Bodin 82pen)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun).
Wales: Southall - Phillips, Bowen (Bodin 72), Aizlewood, Young, Melville (Giggs 62), Horne, Nicholas, Rush, Hughes, Speed.
Luxembourg: Van Rijswijck - Bossi, Birsens, Petry, Wolf, Girres (Jeitz 87), Hellers, Weis, Groff, Langers (Krings 69), Malget.

● Wales needed not only to win but to win well to put not only points but goal difference between them and the pursuing Germans. Skipper Peter Nicholas, making a record 73rd Wales appearance, came to the rescue with a just-in-time tackle on Malget after three minutes. Luxembourg concentrated their energies on defence and Wales broke through thanks only to a late Bodin penalty after Weis handled.

Nov 13 = Istanbul - Euro chp gp 7
Turkey 1 (Riza 12pen)
Rep Ireland 3 (John Byrne 7, 58, Tony Cascarino 55)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug).
Turkey: Hayrettin - Recep (Bulent 69), Turhan, Gokhan, Tugay, Ogun, Feyyaz (Ridvan 46), Riza, Hami, Oguz, Orhan.
Rep Ireland: Bonnér - Hughton, O'Leary, McCarthy, Phelan, Byrne, McGrath, Staunton, Sheedy, Cascarino, Aldridge.

● Ireland manager Jack Charlton let rip on the luck of the English after victory proved in vain. He said: "England have played badly and still got through to the finals." Turkey manager Sepp Piontek said: "I feel sorry for Ireland. They're a good team but they missed a lot of chances in the group as a whole."

Nov 13 = Poznan - Euro chp gp 7
Poland 1 (Roman Szewczyk 32)
England 1 (Gary Lineker 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aut).
Poland: Bako - R Warzycha, Szewczyk (Fedoruk 77), Waldoch, Soczynski, Czachowski, Kosecki, Skrzypczak (Kowalczyk 79), Ziober, Furtok, Urban.
England: Woods - Dixon, Pearce, Gray (Smith 46), Walker, Mabbutt, Platt, Thomas, Rocastle, Lineker, Sinton (Daley 70).

● A late equaliser, struck with masterclass precision by skipper Gary Lineker, earned England the point which carried them into the finals. Manager Graham Taylor gambled by leaving out the veterans who had been recalled against Turkey and throwing Andy Gray and Andy Sinton into the international arena. England took the game to Poland in the early stages but were set back on their heels when a Szewczyk drive from a free kick was deflected into the England net by Mabbutt. England's hopes of an equaliser were beginning to fade when Lineker struck with 13 minutes remaining. Lineker said later: "I was thinking all the way through — justgive me one chance." Ten days later Lineker announced that he would be retiring from international football after the European finals to take up a contract with the new Japanese club, Grampus Eight.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Nov 20 = Paris - Euro chp gp 1
France 3 (Amara Simba 42, Eric Cantona 60, 68)
Iceland 1 (Eyjolfur Sverrisson 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe).
France: Martini - Angloma, Blanc, Casoni (Boli 46), Amoros, Deschamps, Fernandez, Perez, Cantona, Simba, Vahirua.
Iceland: Kristinsson - Valsson, Bergsson (Saevar Jonsson 81), Kristjan Jonsson, Ormslev, Bjarnason, Orlygsson, Kristinn Jonsson, Gudjohnsen, Gudmundur Torfasson (Sverrisson 56), Gretarsson.

● Eric Cantona scored two late goals as France completed their 100 per cent progress through the eight matches of their qualifying group. They dominated the match and might have scored more but for some slack finishing and excellent saves from Kristinsson.

Nov 20 = Sofia - Euro chp gp 2
Bulgaria 1 (Nasko Sirakov 56)
Romania 1 (Adrian Popescu 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
Bulgaria: Mikhailov - Khubchev, Rakov, Kiriakov, Iliev (D Mladenov 57), Yankov, Kostadinov (Yordanov 69), Stoichkov, Penev, Sirakov, Balakov.
Romania: Lung - A Popescu, Munteanu, Sandoi (Ion Timofte 68), Lupescu, G Popescu, Lacatus (Dumitrescu 60), Sabau, Raducioiu, Hagi, Mateut.

● Romania had to win by two clear goals or by 2-1 to qualify for the finals. Otherwise they would let in Scotland. Four years ago a Scottish victory in Bulgaria let in the Irish Republic — this time Scotland were the non-playing beneficiaries of a group finale in Sofia. Romania attacked from the start. Marius Lacatus had a goal disallowed and then Gheorghe Hagi missed a 20th-minute penalty. On the half-hour Romania took the lead through PSV sweeper Gica Popescu. But Bulgaria, inspired by some superb goalkeeping from Mikhailov, stepped up their game after the interval and deserved their equaliser from Sirakov, set up by an exile of their own, Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov.

Nov 20 = Brussels/Parc Astrid - Euro chp gp 5
Belgium 0
Germany 1 (Rudi Voller 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Lanese (Ita).
Belgium: Preud'homme - Emmers, Grun, Demol (Medved 46), Albert, Borkelmans, Degryse, Scifo, Walem, Boffin, Wilmots (Nilis 67).
Germany: Illgner - Reuter, Buchwald, Binz, Kohler, Brehme, Doll, Matthaus, Moller (Effenberg 80), Voller, Riedle.

● Germany's victory, bringing them within reach of the European finals, was overshadowed by the violence unleashed on the city of Brussels by a wave of neo-Nazi hooligans. Around 300 were arrested and turned back by the prepared Belgian security forces. As for the match, the Germans dominated the first half and went ahead with a close-range shot from Voller after a cross from Riedle pulled Preud'homme out of position. Belgium fought back in the second half and brought the German defence to near-panic on several occasions. Substitute Nilis missed the best chance, snatching at a close-range header after a chip forward from the inspirational Scifo.

Nov 20 = Lisbon/Benfica - Euro chp gp 6
Portugal 1 (Joao Pinto II 17)
Greece 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel).
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Joao Pinto I, Rui Bento, Fernando Couto, Jose Leal, Peixe, Vitor Paneira (Oceano 46), Rui Barros, Joao Pinto II, Semedo (Figo 15), Rui Aguas.
Greece: Sarganis - Apostolakis, Karageorgiou, Misibonas, Tsaluhidis, Kalitzakis, Saravakos, Papaioannu (Athanasiadis 64), Borbokis (Dimitriadis 69), Karapiakis, Tsiantakis.

● Portugal's victory left Holland as group favourites. Young striker Joao Vieira Pinto decided the match after 17 minutes. Pinto, one of four graduates from the World Youth Cup-winning side, might have scored more but wasted several second-half opportunities. Greece survived also thanks to the covering work of centre back Yiannis Kalintzakis.

Nov 20 = Veracruz - intl friendly
Mexico 1 (Jimenez)
Uruguay 1 (Cedres)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Angelo Brazzi (US)
Mexico: Campos - Hernandez, Becerril, Aguirre, Munoz, Garcia (Jimenez), Espana, Farfan, Duana (Ordiales), Valdez, Hermosillo.
Uruguay: Alvez - C De los Santos, Revelez, Moas, R Dos Santos, Ostolaza, Fraquia, Castro (A Gutierrez), Cedres (Tejada), W Gutierrez, Ferreira.

● A strong wind made control difficult in Mexico's first match under new manager Cesar Menotti. They tried some of Menotti's characteristic short-passing, rotating game without great success while Uruguay, relying on home-based players, played their usual tight, cautious game and controlled most of the action.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Nov 24 = Dallas/Texas Stadium - intl friendly
United States 1 (Kinnear 6)
Costa Rica 1 (Montero 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,787. **Ref:** Castellanos.
US: Meola - Balboa, Armstrong (Michallik 46), Doyle, Clavijo, Quinn, *Murray, Henderson, Wynalda, Kinnear, Acosta (Agoos 64). *Murray sent off, 33min.
Costa Rica: Rojas - Chacon, Gonzales, Montero, *Quesada, Arguedas (Smith), R Gomez, Guillen, Marchena, N Gomez (Alfaro), Jara. *Quesada sent off, 33min.

● Dominic Kinnear set the US off to a good start after a slip by Costa Rica keeper Rojas. Costa Rica were duly rattled, a piece of rugged defending by Balboa provoked a minor set-to after which Murray and Quesada were sent off. Costa Rica settled down to play some better football in the second half and equalised when Mauricio Montero converted a Jara pass.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Dec 4 = Salonika - Euro chp gp 6
Greece 0
Holland 2 (Dennis Bergkamp 38, Danny Blind 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,500. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe).
Greece: Sarganis - Pavlos Papaioannu (Karageorgiu 46), Lagonidis, Kalintzakis, Mitsibonas, Tsaluhidis, Saravakos, Papadopulos, Tsiantakis, Nioplias, Karapialis (Tursunidis 61).
Holland: Van Breukelen - Blind, Van Tiggelen, R Koeman, EKoeman, Wouters, Rijkaard (Winter 61), Richard Witschge, Bergkamp, Van Basten, Kieft.

● Holland secured their place in the European finals. Greece needed to beat Holland and then win their last group game by a wide margin to qualify instead. They failed to do that despite an unexpected bonus when Ruud Gullit withdrew from the match after straining a muscle in the warm-up — an incident which caused a minor altercation with manager Rinus Michels. Wouters created the opening goal shortly before half-time for Bergkamp but though Holland dominated the second half it was not until three minutes from time that Blind made victory certain by heading home a Van Basten cross. Greece's best chance fell to Saravakos after 33 minutes but Van Breukelen saved well.

OTHER MATCHES

Oct 6 (Tokyo): Europe Veterans 1 (Giresse 77), **South America Veterans 1** (Edinho 3).
Dec 4: Egypt 4 (El Kasse, Ibrahim Hassan, Ragab, Youssef), **Poland B 0.**

NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA CONCACAF CHAMPIONS' CUP

Aug 18 = San Jose (C Rica) - Central American zone final 1st leg
Saprissa (CR) 1 (Hilario)
Real Espana (Hon) 2 (Gonzalez, Anariba)
HT: 1-0.
Saprissa: Fuentes - Salazar, Sanchez, Camacho, Diaz, Flores (Fonseca), Guimaraes, Gonzalez, Hilario, Coronado (Jaikel), Medford.
Espana: Cruz - Contreras, Castro, Roland, Soto (Anariba), Gonzalez, Funez, Gayle (Landa), Vallejo, Castillo, Hernandez.

● Saprissa took the lead after 14 seconds and continued pressing but lost control when Espana scored twice within six minutes in the second half.

Aug 24 = San Pedro Sula, Honduras - 2nd leg
Real Espana 2 (Ortega, Aguirre)
Saprissa 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Jose C Ortiz (El S)
Espana: Cruz - Contreras, Roland, Lada, Funez, Vallejo (Ariola), Bonilla, Gonzalez, Soto, Ortega (Aguirre), Castillo.
Saprissa: Ramirez - Gonzalez, Diaz, Sanchez (Fonseca), Guimaraes, Camach, Salazar, Mayorga (Jaikel), Hilario, Coronado, Medford.

● Real Espana owed victory to their better teamwork while Saprissa's marking and passing was poor. Real Espana qualified 4-1 on aggregate to meet the winners of the North American (Puebla, Mexico) and Caribbean (Police, Trinidad and Tobago), zones.

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals Group A -

NOVEMBER 27
Anderlecht 0
Panathinaikos 0
Att: 24,000.

Sampdoria 2 (Roberto Mancini 7, Gianluca Vialli 73)
Red Star 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000.

DECEMBER 11
Panathinaikos 0
Sampdoria 0
Att: 51,500.

DECEMBER 12
Red Star 3 (Milorad Ratkovic 19, Ilija Ivic 70, Darko Pancev 86)
Anderlecht 2 (Nii Lamptey 33, Luc Nilis 55)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000 (in Budapest)

Semi-finals Group B -

NOVEMBER 27
Barcelona 3 (Guillermo Amor 16, Michael Laudrup 34, Jose Baquero 61)
Sparta 2 (Josef Vrabec 18, Vaclav Nemecek 63)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 82,000.
* Amor (Barcelona), sent off after 17mins.

Kiev Dynamo 1 (Oleg Salenko 29)
Benfica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 47,500.

DECEMBER 11
Benfica 0
Barcelona 0
Att: 80,000.

Sparta 2 (Vaclav Nemecek 13, Josef Vrabec 22)
Kiev Dynamo 1 (Saran 55)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.

UEFA CUP

Third round, first legs (Nov 27)
AEK Athens 2 (Daniel Batista 21, Refik Sabanadzovic 73)
Torino 2 (Walter Casagrande 34, Giorgio Bresciani 37)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 35,000.

B1903 1 (Lars Hoyer Nielsen 43)
Trabzonspor 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,100.
*Palle Petersen (B1903 goalkeeper), sent off, 15min.

Ghent 2 (Erwin Vandenbergh 30, Marc Van der Linden 86)
Moscow Dynamo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000.
Ghent: Petry - Verdegem, Medved, Vangronsveld, Verkuyl, Janssens, Dauwen, De Groote, Vandenbergh, Van der Linden, Viscaal.
Dynamo: Smetanin - Smertin, Pankratiev, Chernikov, Tsarev, Timochenko, Drozdov, Tetradze, Simutenko, Leonenko, Kiriakov.

Hamburg 1 (Jan Furtok 21)
Sigma Olomouc 2 (Hapal 10, 45)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 20,000.
Hamburg: Golz - Rohde, Beiersdorfer, Kober, Sporl (Von Heesen 60), Bode, Hartmann, Matysik, Eck, Furtok, Nando (Eckel 60).
Sigma: Pribyl - Bokiy, Slaby, Kotulek, Vadura, Hapal, Marosi (Sindelar 80), Hanus (Kriz 89), Gottwald, Latal, Kerbr.

Osasuna 0
Ajax 1 (Dennis Bergkamp 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000.

Steaua 0
Genoa 1 (Tomas Skuhravy 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,000.

Tirol 0
Liverpool 2 (Dean Saunders 58, 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** Fredriksson (Swe)
Tirol: Oraze - Streiter, Wazinger, Posch,

CONTINUED OVER

Russ, Linzmaier, Hortnagl (Kirchler 71), Gorosito, Hartmann, Pacult, Westerthaler.
Liverpool: Grobbelaar - Nicol, Wright, Tanner, Ablett, Marsh, Molby, McMahon, Harkness, Saunders, McManaman.

Xamax Neuchatel 1 (Ibrahim Hassan 35)
Real Madrid 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,400.

UEFA CUP

Third round, second legs (Dec 11 unless stated)
Ajax 1 (Dennis Bergkamp 12)
Osasuna 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000 (in Dusseldorf)
Ajax 2-0 on agg

Sigma Olomouc 4
Hamburg 1
Played Dec 10.
Sigma Olomouc 6-2 on agg

Genoa 1 (Carlos Aguilera 59)
Steaua 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000.
Genoa 2-0 on agg

Liverpool 4 (Dean Saunders 39, 57, 68, Barry Venison 84)
Tirol 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,007.
Liverpool 6-0 on agg

Moscow Dynamo 0
Ghent 0
Att: 20,000
Ghent 2-0 on agg
*Dynamo forward Sergei Derkach sent off after 90 seconds.

Torino 1 (Walter Casagrande 54)
AEK Athens 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000.
Torino 3-2 on agg

Trabzonspor 0
B1903 0
Att: 25,000.
B1903 1-0 on agg

Real Madrid 4 (Ibrahim Hassan og 48, Gheorghe Hagi 52, Michel 65pen, Manuel Sanchis 68)
Xamax Neuchatel 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 59,000.
Played Dec 12.
Real Madrid 4-1 on agg

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCT 2

AUSTRIA

Alpine 0, Kremser 2
Sturm Graz 0, Vorwarts Steyr 2
St. Polten 2, Rapid Wien 2
Austria Wien 3, Vienna 0
FC Tirol 2, Austria Salzburg 2
Stahl Linz 2, Admira Wacker 2

BELGIUM Cup

Olympic 0, Mechelen 3
SK Lommel 4, Tilleur 1
Beveren 3, FC Seraing 2
Beerschot 1, Ostende 0
Th. Diest 1, V. Geel 1
(Geel win on pens)
Union SG 0, Antwerp 1
Gent 4, Harelbeke 1
Tongeren 1, Aalst 3
Club Brugge 2, Lokeren 0
Sint Truiden 1, Anderlecht 1
(Sint Triuden win on pens)
Waregem 2, FC Izegem 1
Tienen 2, Kapellen 2
(Tienen win on pens)
Molenbeek 3, RC Genk 0
Standard 3, Cercle Brugge 1
Kortrijk 1, St Niklaas 2
Ekeren 0, Club Liege

ENGLAND Weekend

Arsenal 2 (Smith 69, Wright 75), **Notts County 0. Att:** 30,011.
Aston Villa 2 (Olney 9, Yorke 29), **Wimbledon 1** (Fashanu 78). **Att:** 16,928.
Crystal Palace 0, Chelsea 0. Att: 21,841l.
Leeds United 1 (Kilcline 55 o.g.), **Oldham Athletic 0. Att:** 28,199.
Liverpool 1 (Houghton 34), **Coventry City 0. Att:** 33,339.
Manchester City 3 (Sheron 22, Quinn 36, Hughes 76), **Sheffield United 2** (Gayle 33, 41). **Att:** 25,495.
Norwich City 1 (Newman 41), **Luton Town 0. Att:** 10,541.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Black 84), **Southampton 3** (Le Tissier 33, pen 70, Shearer 71). **Att:** 20,026.
QPR 3 (Bailey 7, Barker 46, 90), **Everton 1** (Cottee 56). **Att:** 10,002.
Sheffield Wed 3 (Hirst 15, Jemson 69, 90), **Manchester United 2** (McClair 17, 22). **Att:** 38,250.
West Ham United 2 (Small 12, Thomas 28), **Tottenham 1** (Lineker 5). **Att:** 23,946.

FRANCE Weekend

Montpellier 1 (Perilleux pen 53), **Auxerre 1** (Roche 79). **Att:** 11,000.
Monaco 0, Lens 0. Att: 4,000.
Toulon 2 (Rodriguez 65, Revelles 70), **Sochaux 0. Att:** 4,500.
Rennes 3 (Denis 14, Chala 31, Delamontagne 65), **Metz 1** (Huysman 3). **Att:** 7,385.
Paris SG 2 (Simba 49, 74), **Nimes 0. Att:** 25,000.
Lille 1 (Brisson pen 5), **Caen 2** (Dangbeto 21, Cauet 71). **Att:** 5,000.
Le Havre 0, Marseille 2 (Boli 35, Waddle 72). **Att:** 18,484.
Lyon 1 (Fernandez 61), **Toulouse 0. Att:** 12,151.
Nancy 3 (Tarasiewicz 12, Micciche 56, Zavarov 80), **Nantes 1** (Sechet o.g. 16). **Att:** 8,245.
Cannes 0, St. Etienne 2 (Mege 35, 80). **Att:** 5,000.

GERMANY Weekend

Vfl Bochum 3 (Kempe 13, Wegmann 19, Bonan 33), **Hansa Rostock 2** (Spies 78, Dowe 80). **Att:** 10,570.
Nurnberg 3 (Eckstein 22, Zietsch 32, Wagner 82), **Wattenscheid 1** (Sane 70). **Att:** 30,000.
Dynamo Dresden 2 (Gutschow 68, 82), **F. Dusseldorf 0. Att:** 11,000.
Borussia Dortmund 0, VfB Stuttgart 0. Att: 45,341.
Bayern Munich 3 (Mazinho 34, 80, Effenberg 56), **Borussia Mg 0. Att:** 36,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Bindewald o.g. 13). **Att:** 33,000.
Hamburger SV 1 (Eck 67), **Duisburg 1** (Wolk 76). **Att:** 21,240.
Kaiserslautern 3 (Funkel pen 32, Witeczek 45, Hotic 63), **Karlsruher 0. Att:** 36,349.
FC Koln 5 (Fuchs 5, Heidt 40, Banach 41, 80, Sturm 87), **Werder Bremen 0. Att:** 19,000.
Stuttgarter Kickers 1 (Anderbrugge 9), **Schalke 1** (Vollmer 67). **Att:** 9,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

Roda JC 1 (Arnold 56), **Sparta 1** (Gerard de Nooijer 30). **Att:** 2,500.
MVV 1 (Bucan 6), **RKC 1** (Brands 45). **Att:** 4,500.
SVV/Dordrecht 2 (Wouden 14, 51), **Fortuna Sittard 1** (Boogers 88). **Att:** 1,000.
FC Den Haag v Ajax — postponed.
Willem II 0, PSV 2 (Ellerman 39, Bwalya 70). **Att:** 10,500.
Feyenoord 0, FC Groningen 0. Att: 20,730.
FC Volendam 2 (Peters 18, Clayton pen 66), **De Graafschap 1** (Koolhof 76). **Att:** 3,100.
FC Utrecht 2 (Roest 33, Lindenaar 72), **Ajax 1** (Bergkamp 11). **Att:** 14,500.
VVV 3 (Derix 40, Verberne 80, Jos Rutten pen 90), **FC Twente 4** (Driessen o.g. 46, Numan 61, 74, De Boer pen 64). **Att:** 4,009.

ITALY Weekend

Ascoli 0, Fiorentina 0. Att: 10,000.
Atalanta 0, Cagliari 1 (Herrera 12). **Att:** 20,000.
Bari 0, AC Milan 1 (Massaro 29). **Att:** 50,000.
Genoa 0, Sampdoria 0. Att: 40,000.
Internazionale 0, Napoli 0. Att: 60,000.
Juventus 2 (Carrera 7, Casiraghi 26), **Cremonese 0. Att:** 40,000.
Parma 0 Torino 0. Att: 20,000.
AS Roma 1 (Picasso o.g. 54), **Foggia 1** (Shalimov 82). **Att:** 53,600.
Verona 0, Lazio 2 (Riedle 45, 67). **Att:** 21,250.

PORTUGAL

Gil Vicente 0, Vit. Guimares 2
Boavista 2, Sp. Lisbon 1
Salgueiros 3, Estoril 0
Penafiel 1, Torriense 0
Uniao Madeira 1, Maritimo 1
Beira-Mar 3, Pacos Ferreira 0
Benfica 4, Chaves 1
Sp. Braga 0, FC Porto 0
Farense 1, Famalicao 0

SCOTLAND

LEAGUE CUP FINAL:
Dunfermline 0, Hibernian 2 (McIntyre pen 48, Wright 84). **Att:** 40,377.

Weekend

Airdrie 1 (Black pen 52), **Dundee United 3** (Ferguson 32, Clark 73, Paatelainen 83). **Att:** 3,500.
Motherwell 0, Hearts 1 (Ferguson 19). **Att:** 5,417.
Rangers 1 (Johnston 83), **Falkirk 1** (Godfrey 1). **Att:** 36,441.
St. Johnstone 1 (Curran 43), **Aberdeen 3** (Van de Ven 12, Jess 84, Mason 90). **Att:** 5,682.
St Mirren 0, Celtic 5 (McStay 30, Coyne 48, 72, Creaney 85, O' Neil 90). **Att:** 10,442.

SPAIN Weekend

Barcelona 1 (Stoichkov 31), **Atletico Madrid 0. Att:** 75,000.
Real Madrid 3 (Hierro 56, 58, Luis Enrique 85), **Logrones 0. Att:** 80,000.
Sp. Gijon 1 (Alcazar 84), **La Coruna 0. Att:** 18,000.
Sevilla 3 (Ramon 3, Zamorano 20, 72). **Albacete 0. Att:** 35,000.
Athletico Bilbao 0, Burgos 0. Att: 40,000.
Valladolid 2 (Fonseca 49, 68), **Mallorca 1** (Mendez 85). **Att:** 15,000.
Cadiz 2 (Faly 30, Quevedo 41), **Espanol 1** (Escaich 10). **Att:** 15,000.
Tenerife 0, Real Sociedad 0. Att: 20,000.
Valencia 0, R. Zaragoza 1 (Higuera 21). **Att:** 40,000.
Osasuna 1 (Urban 78), **Oviedo 0. Att:** 20,000.

SWITZERLAND

Aarau 2, Wettingen 0
Neuchatel Xamax 1, Luzern 1
St Gallen 2, Young Boys 0
Servette 1, Lausanne Sports 1
Sion 0, Lugano 0
FC Zurich 1, Grasshoppers 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Admira Wacker 3, Sturm Graz 1
Vienna 0, Alpine 0
Rapid Wien 2, FC Tirol 1
Vorwarts Steyr 1, Austria Wien 2
Kremser SC 1, St Polten 2

WEEKEND

Arsenal 0, West Ham United 1 (Small 76). **Att:** 33,539.
Coventry City 0, Chelsea 1 (Le Saux 18). **Att:** 11,343.
Liverpool 1 (Hysen 44), **Crystal Palace 2** (Gabbiadini 51, Thomas 72). **Att:** 34,231l.
Luton Town 0, Everton 1 (Warzycha 67). **Att:** 8,022.
Manchester United 2 (Hoyland o.g. 33, Kanchelskis 78), **Sheffield United 0. Att:** 42,942.
Norwich City 0, Nottingham Forest 0. Att: 13,014.
Notts County 2 (Rideout 6, Johnson 44), **Oldham Athletic 0. Att:** 7,643.
QPR 0, Aston Vila 1 (Yorke 44), **Att:** 10,642.
Sheffield Wed 0, Tottenham 0. Att: 31,573.
Southampton 0, Manchester City 3 (Quinn 10, Sheron 47, Gittens o.g. 59). **Att:** 13,933.
Wimbledon 0, Leeds United 0. Att: 7,023.

FRANCE Weekend

Sochaux 0, Paris SG 2 (Valdo 59, Le Guen 71). **Att:** 5,500.
Nimes 1 (Maharzi 24), **Rennes 2** (Sorin 66, Shala 85). **Att:** 9,760.
Toulouse 1 (Delpech 46), **Lille 0. Att:** 8,431.
Caen 4 (Gorter 41, Rio 51, Paille 80, Timothee 86), **Toulon 1** (Meyrieu 48). **Att:** 7,513.
St Etienne 1 (Chaintreuil 44), **Montpellier 1** (Divert 35). **Att:** 14,212.
Lens 1 (Slater 41), **Cannes 1** (Koot 36). **Att:** 15,000.

GREECE

Korinthos 3, Xanthi 1
Athinaikos 2, Ethnikos 1
Serres 1, Doxa Drama 1
Pierikos 0, Aris Salonika 2
Apollon 1, Panionios 0
Larissa 0, AEK Athens 2
PAOK 1, OFI Crete 0
Heraklis 1, Panathinaikos 0
Olympiakos 5, Panahaiki 2

HOLLAND Weekend

Fortuna Sittard 2 (De Jong 23, Boogers pen 30), **Vitesse 2** (Van Arum 60, Van den Brom 77). **Att:** 3,000.
De Graafschap 1 (Godee 45), **Feyenoord 1** (Fraser 63). **Att:** 10,040.
RKC 2 (Decheiver 25, Van Hoogdalem 81), **PSV 2** (Bwalya 35, Kieft 78). **Att:** 6,200.
FC Den Haag 0, Ajax 0. Att: 7,500.
Sparta 1 (Van den Berg 28), **VVV 1** (Faber o.g. 89). **Att:** 3,250.
FC Twente 5 (De Boer 22, Kool 39, Gaasbeek 64, Youri Mulder 69, Paus 90), **SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att: Att:** 4,200.
FC Utrecht 0, FC Volendam 0. Att: 5,500.
FC Groningen 2 (Hennie Meijer 27, 72), **MVV 2** (Erik Meijer 46, Lanckohr pen 90). **Att:** 13,404.

ITALY Midweek — Cup

Sampdoria 1, Bari 1
AS Roma 1, Napoli 0
Parma 0, Fiorentina 0
Pisa 2, Genoa 0
Verona 2, AC Milan 2
Torino 2, Lazio 0

Action from the 2-2 Italian Cup draw between Inter and Como.

Austria Salzburg 2, Stahl Linz 1

BELGIUM Weekend

Charleroi 0, Anderlecht 0. Att: 15,000.
KV Mechelen 1 (Eijkelkamp 43), **Kortrijk 0. Att:** 7,700.
Standard 4 (Vos 25, 31, 89, Wilmots 62), **Gent 2** (Viscaal 66, 85). **Att:** 18,000.
Beveren 0, Club Brugge 0. Att: 14,000.
Waregem 3 (Teppers 27, 34, 82), **Lierse 1** (Simmes 32). **Att:** 3,500.
Molenbeek 2 (Van Ankeren 49, Van Beldhoven 70), **Aalst 0. Att:** 9,000.
Cercle Brugge 3 (Karacic 20, Siquet 71, Soenens 76), **Antwerp 1** (Lehnhoff 67). **Att:** 3,200.
Lokeren 0, Genk 0. Att: 2,900.
Ekeren 0, FC Liege 0. Att: 2,000.

ENGLAND Midweek — League Cup

Birmingham City 1, Crystal Palace 1
Grimsby Town 0, Tottenham 3
Huddersfield 1, Swindon 4
Leeds United 3, Tranmere 1
Liverpool 2, Port Vale 2
Manchester City 0, QPR 0
Middlesbrough 1, Barnsley 0
Oldham 2, Derby County 1
Peterborough 1, Newcastle 0
Sjeffield United 0, West Ham 2
Coventry City 1, Arsenal 0
Everton 4, Wolverhampton W. 1
Manchester United 2, Portsmouth 0
Norwich City 4, Brentford 1
Nottingham Forest 2, Bristol Rovers 0
Sheffield Wednesday 0, Southampton 0
Metz 1 (Huysman 85), **Lyon 1** (Bouderbala 88). **Att:** 13,716.
Auxerre 1 (Cocard 8), **Monaco 1** (Weah 83). **Att:** 10,000.
Nantes 0, Le Havre 0. Att: 7,212.
Marseille 4 (Waddle 8, Papin 19, Steven 33, Pele 83), **Nancy 0. Att:** 25,000.

GERMANY Cup

Borussia Mg 2, Stuttgarter Kickers 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1, VfB Stuttgart 0
Hanover 1, Karlsruher 0

WEEKEND

Wattenscheid 0, Bayern Munich 0. Att: 40,000.
Werder Bremen 0, Kaiserslautern 2 (Hotic 59, Kunt pen 62). **Att:** 17,750.
Duisburg 3 (Nijhuise 56, Tonnies pen 54, Wolk 72), **Eintracht Frankfurt 6** (Bein 12, Moller 24, Anderson 25, Sippel 55, 80, Yeoboah 89). **Att:** 30,000.
Borussia Mg 1 (Salou 63), **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Chapuisat 54). **Att:** 30,000.
Schalke 1 (Christensen 66), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Rosler 5). **Att:** 43,700.
Fortuna Dusseldorf 3 (Buskens 29, Schreier 35, Carracedo 90), **VfL Bochum 0. Att:** 10,500.
Hansa Rostock 1 (Persigehl 50), **FC Koln 1** (Fuchs 9). Att:15,000.
Karlsruher SC 4 (Schutterle 2, 4, Rolff 80, Scholl 88), **Hamburger SV 1** (Ecks 57). **Att:** 11,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 0, Nurnberg 1 (Wuck 77). **Att:** 8,000.
VfB Stuttgart 3 (Sammer 10, Walter 62, Buck 90), **Stuttgarter Kickers 1** (Novodomsky 40). **Att:** 40,200.
Atalanta 0, Juventus 0
Inter 2, Como 2

WEEKEND

Ascoli 1 (Benetti 72), **Cremonese 0. Att:** 8,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Dell' Oglio 62), **Cagliari 0. Att:** 24,000.
Foggia 4 (Baiano 18, 45 pen, 80, Signori 76), **Bari 1** (Giampaolo 46). **Att:** 22,000.
Genoa 0, Atalanta 2 (Bianchezi 61, Caniggia 90). Att:30,000.
Lazio 1 (Riedle 71), **Juventus 1** (Alessio 47). **Att:** 65,000.
AC Milan 4 (Van Basten 30, Massaro 36, Rijkaard 57, Costacurta 78), **AS Roma 1** (Carnevale 59). **Att:** 70,000.
Napoli 2 (Zola 3, Careca pen 37), **Sampdoria 1** (Blanc o.g. 40). **Att:** 55,000.
Parma 1 (Minotti 87), **Verona 1** (Prytz pen 55). **Att:** 15,000.
Torino 0, Inter 0. Att: 35,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Vit. Guimares 3, Farense 1
Sp. Lisbon 2, Gil Vicente 0
Estoril 0, Boavista 0
Torriense 2, Salgueiros 0
Maritimo 2, Penafiel 0
Pacos Ferreira 3, Uniao Madeira 0
Chaves 3, Beira-Mar 0
FC Porto 0, Benfica 0
Famalicao 3, Sp. Braga 1

SCOTLAND Midweek

Dundee United 3 (McKinnon 17, Jackson pen 27, Ferguson 87), **Rangers 2** (McCoist 30, 58). **Att:** 14,397.

Aberdeen 3 (Winnie 46, Mason 81, Gillhaus 86), **Motherwell 1** (Arnott 51). **Att:** 9,200.
Celtic 4 (Nicholas 12, 50 pen, Collins 63, Coyne 74), St **Johnstone 0. Att:** 18,620.
Hearts 0, St Mirren 0. Att: 8,638.

Weekend

Aberdeen 0, Dundee United 1 (McInally 17). **Att:** 13,500.
Airdrie 0, Falkirk 0. Att: 4,000.
Hibernian 1 (Wright 26), **Heart of Midlothian 1** (Robertson 4). **Att:** 22,000.
Rangers 1 (McCoist 60), **Celtic 1** (Cascarino 70). **Att:** 37,387.
St Johnstone 3 (Wright 42, Bingham 74, Curran 82), **Dunfermline 2** (Leitch 34, Robertson 73). **Att:** 4,509.
St Mirren 1 (Torfasson 81), **Motherwell 2** (Martin o.g. 37, Fridge o.g. 49). **Att:** 2,689.

SPAIN Weekend

Logrones 2 (Polato 8, Uribarrena 45), **Barcelona 2** (Amor 4, Koeman pen 50). **Att:** 11,000.
La Coruna 0, Real Madrid 3 (Hierro 59, Michel 80, Butragueno 90). **Att:** 25,000.
Albacete 0, Sp. Gijon 2 (Joaquin 52, 60). **Att:** 14,000.
Burgos 1 (Ajucar 28), **Sevilla 0. Att:** 9,000.
Mallorca 1 (Herrera 72), **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Ciganda 32, Larrazabal pen 46). **Att:** 12,000.
Espanol 0, Valladolid 2 (Fonseca 30, Onesimo 41). **Att:** 24,000.
Real Sociedad 1 (Gorriz 33), **Cadiz 0. Att:** 15,000.
Zaragoza 3 (Mateut 16, Pardeza 25, Gay 78), **Tenerife 0. Att:** 22,000.
Oviedo 2 (Lacatus 55, 60), **Valencia 2** (Tomas 78, Boro 89). **Att:** 16,00.
Atletico Madrid 1 (Manolo pen 50), **Osasuna 0. Att:** 35,000.

SWITZERLAND

Wettingen 2, Sion 3
FC Zurich 1, Neuchatel Xamax 1
Lugano 1, Aarau 1
FC Luzern 1, Grasshoppers 3
Servette 3, St Gallen 3
Young Boys 1, Lausanne Sports 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOV 10

AUSTRIA

FC Tirol 3, Kremser SC 2
DSV Alpine 1, Vorwarts Steyr
Stahl Linz 1, Rapid Wien 1
St Polten 2, Vienna 1
Austria Wien 5, Sturm Graz 0
Austria Salzburg 1, Admira Wacker 0

BELGIUM Weekend

Lierse 3 (Boonen 17, Simmes 40, Rekdal 70), **Molenbeek 1** (Van den Buys 7). **Att:** 4,500.
Anderlecht 1 (Bosman 70), **KV Mechelen 0. Att:** 23,000.
FC Liege 4 (Ikpeba 65, Emes 69, 78, 79), **Beveren 0. Att:** 65,000.
Antwerp 1 (Smidts 41), **Standard 2** (Vos 4, 54). **Att:** 9,000.
Genk 0, Gent 1 (Vangronsveld 23). **Att:** 6,500.
Kortrijk 1 (Van Durme 75), **Cercle Brugge 0. Att:** 3,500.
Aalst 2 (Van Peteghem 41, 46), **Charleroi 0. Att:** 3,000.
Club Brugge 2 (Staelens 38, Schaessens 67), **Waregem 1** (Balogh 89). **Att:** 8,000.
Lokeren 1 (Meszaros 73), **Ekeren 2** (Sneiders 29, Schmoller 34). Att:4,000.

FRANCE Weekend

Montpellier 0, Marseille 0. Att: 18,000.
Monaco 1 (Bonalair o.g. 28), **Nantes 0. Att:** 2,500.
Caen 1 (Paille pen 64), **Metz 0. Att:** 9,160.
Toulon 5 (Revelles 12, 40, Meyrieu 14, 85, Pineda 77), **Nimes 0. Att:** 2,500.
Rennes 2 (Baltazar pen 51, 72), **Sochaux 0. Att:** 11,597.
Paris SG 0, Toulouse 0. Att:25,000.
Lille 2 (Rollain 35, Tihy 77), **St. Etienne 0. Att:** 5,000.
Lyon 1 (Bursac 58), **Lens 1** (Tikvah 89). **Att:** 12,582.
Nancy 1 (Schon 2), **Le Havre 3** (Tiehy 63, 87, Danek 65). **Att:** 7,074.
Cannes 1 (Fernandez 39), **Auxerre 1** (Koot o.g. 51). **Att:** 5,000.

GERMANY Weekend

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Chapuisat 66), **Wattensheid 1** (Greiser 90). Att:30,433.
Nurnberg 1 (Wagner 27), **Duisburg 1** (Nijhuis 53). **Att:** 50,000.
VfL Bochum 1 (U. Wegmann 90), **Schalke 0. Att:** 42,000.
Dynamo Dresden 2 (Gutschow 36, Pilz 36), **Stuttgarter Kickers 2** (Moutas 5, 74). **Att:** 13,000.
Bayern Munich 2 (Labbadia 32, 38), **Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Happe 61, Kree 70). **Att:** 16,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Yeboah 83), **Karlsruher SC 1** (Reich 51). **Att:** 15,000.
Kaiserslautern 3 (Kuntz 30, Hotic 61, Scherr 87), **Hansa Rostock 0. Att:** 33,698.
FC Koln 4 (Fuchs 5, Banach 45, 56, Greiner 69), **Fortuna Dusseldorf 1** (Demandt 28). **Att:** 20,000.
VfB Stuttgart 0, Borussia Mg 1 (Fach 3). **Att:** 19,000.
Hamburger SV 0, Werder Bremen 1 (Hermann 2). **Att:** 24,000.

GREECE

Athinaikos 2, Korinthos 0
Xanthi 1, Serres 0
Ethnikos 2, Pierikos 2
Doxa Drama 0, Apollon 0
Aris Salonika 3, Larissa 0
Panionios 1, PAOK 1
AEK Athens 2, Heraklis 0
OFI Crete 2, Olympiakos 2
Panahaiki 0, Panathinaikos 1

HOLLAND Weekend

Roda JC 5 (Boerbach 26, Verhagen 65, Ogenchukwu 71, Hoffman 77, Arnold 89), **FC Den Haag 0. Att:** 1,000.
MVV 0, De Graafschap 0. Att: 3,500.
SVV/Dordrecht v Sparta — postponed.
PSV 2 (Bwalya 35, Valckx pen 75), **FC Groningen 1** (Gerets o.g. 38). **Att:** 21,800.
VVV 0, Ajax 4 (Pettersson 10, Blind 31, Bergkamp 51, 63). **Att:** 10,000.
Feyenoord 0, FC Utrecht 0. Att: 17,552.
FC Volendam 0, Fortuna Sittard 1 (Boogers 81). **Att:** 2,750.
Vitesse 4 (Straal 6, Loeffen 10, 86, Latuheru 22), **FC Twente 1** (Zwijnenberg 46). **Att:** 4,952.
RKC 1 (Van Hoogdalem 65), **Willem II 2** (Hofstede 35, Van Geel 63). **Att:** 4,500.

ITALY Cup

Juventus 3, Atalanta 1

PORTUGAL

Vit. Guimares 2, Sp. Lisbon 2
Gil Vicente 1, Estoril 1
Boavista 1, Torriense 1
Salgueiros 1, Maritimo 0
Penafiel 0, Pacos Ferreira 0
Uniao Madeira 1, Chaves 1
Beira-Mar 0, FC Porto 1
Benfica 2, Famalicao 1
Farense 3, Sp. Braga 1

SCOTLAND Midweek

Hibernian 2 (Reid 21, McIntyre pen 82), **Airdrie 2** (Kirkwood pen 44, pen 52). **Att:** 7,000.

Weekend

Celtic 2 (Nicholas 14, Creaney 63), **Aberdeen 1** (Jess 11). **Att:** 36,837.
Dundee United 1 (McKinnon 3), **Hibernian 1** (Hunter 86). Att:8,812.
Dunfermline 0, Rangers 5 (Gough 5, Gordon 29, 72. Hateley 54, McCoist 61). **Att:** 13,351
Falkirk 3 (Baptie 23, McAllister 64, Stainrod 70), **St Mirren 0. Att:** 4,446.
Hearts 2 (Baird 61, Hogg 89), **St Johnstone 1** (Curran 64). **Att:** 10,222.
Motherwell 1 (Cooper pen 53), **Airdrie 2** (Watson 26, Balfour 83). **Att:** 5,509.

SPAIN Weekend

Valencia 2 (Giner 22, Penev 90), **Atletico Madrid 0. Att:** 40,000.
Logrones 2 (Polster 52, 87), **La Coruna 1** (Uralde 62). **Att:** 11,000.
Real Madrid 2 (Michel pen 45, Aldana 70), **Albacete 1** (Zalazar pen 85). **Att:** 90,000.
Sp. Gijon 0, Burgos 0. Att: 17,852.
Sevilla 2 (Zamorano 27, Conte 90), **Mallorca 0. Att:** 35,00.
Athletic Bilbao 0, Espanol 2 (Escaich 41, Masnou 52). **Att:** 35,000.
Valladolid 2 (Fonseca 26, 31), **Real Sociedad 2** (Luis Perez 12, Imaz 15). **Att:** 16,000.
Cadiz 0, Zaragoza 0. Att: 10,000.
Tenerife 1 (Pizzi 39), **Oviedo 0. Att:** 18,000.
Barcelona 2 (Koeman pen 47, Bakero 88), **Osasuna 0. Att:** 85,000.

SWITZERLAND Midweek

Lausanne Sports 5, Aarau 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOV 17

AUSTRIA Weekend

Admira Wacker 3, Austria Wien 0
Vorwarts Steyr 4, St. Polten 0
Kremser SC 0, Stahl Linz 6
Sturm Graz 1, Alpine 0
Vienna 1, FC Tirol 2
Rapid Wien 1, Austria Salzburg 0

BELGIUM Midweek

Antwerp 2 (Czerniatynski 10, Claesen 45), **Club Brugge 1** (Amokachi 51). **Att:** 7,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

Aston Villa 1 (Yorke 29), **Notts County 0. Att:** 23,020.
Chelsea 0, Norwich City 3 (Fleck 12, Bowen 26, 64). **Att:** 15,755.
Crystal Palace 1 (Thomas 67), **Southampton 0. Att:** 15,861.
Everton 2 (Cottee pen 42, Watson 57), **Wimbledon 0. Att:** 18,762.
Leeds United 2 (Sterland 59, Wallace 62), **QPR 0. Att:** 27,087.
Manchester City 0, Manchester United 0. Att: 38,180.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Sheringham 19), **Coventry City 0. Att:** 21,154.
Oldham Athletic 1 (Barlow 66), **Arsenal 1** (Wright 86). **Att:** 15,681.
Tottenham 4 (Houghton 68, 75, Lineker 70, 83). **Luton Town 1** (Harford 44). **Att:** 27,543.
West Ham United 0, Liverpool 0. Att: 23,569.
Sheffield United 2 (Whitehurst 44, Deane 72), **Sheffield Wednesday 0. Att:** 31,832.

FRANCE Weekend

Marseille 1 (Pele 84), **Monaco 1** (Rui Barros 51). **Att:** 26,015.
Sochaux 2 (Croci 6, Madar 88), **Nancy 2** (Lucas o.g. 72, Zitelli 76). **Att:** 2,500.
Nimes 0, Caen 1 (Gorter 41). **Att:** 7,000.
Toulouse 2 (Pavon 4, 78), **Rennes 0. Att:** 7,608.
St Etienne 3 (Moravcik 36, Kastendeuch pen 53, Tholot 89), **Paris SG 0. Att:** 13,360.
Lens 0, Lille 0. Att: 26,000.
Metz 4 (Kubik 4, Calderaro 38, 74, Gaillot 47), **Toulon 1** (Blanc 81). **Att:** 10,844.
Auxerre 3 (Dutuel 10, pen 67, Baticle 43), **Lyon 0. Att:** 6,000.
Nantes 1 (Quedec 75), **Cannes 0. Att:** 4,600.
Le Havre 3 (Roux 24, Der Zakarian 51, Benedet 79), **Montpellier 1** (Ferahoui 32). **Att:** 9,372.

GERMANY Weekend

Wattenscheid 1 (Fink 58), **VfB Stuttgart 3** (Buchward 9, Langbein o.g. 27, Sverrisson 36). **Att:** 3,200.
Werder Bremen 1 (Allofs 82), **Eintracht Frankfurt 0. Att:** 21,400.
Duisburg 1 (Nijhuis 31), **Bayern Munich 1** (Wohlfarth 85). **Att:** 31,000.
Dynamo Dresden 0, VfL Bochum 0. Att: 14,000.
Schalke 3 (Anderbrugge pen 18, Borodjuk 73, Sendscheid 80), **FC Koln 0. Att:** 61,400.
F. Dusseldorf 1 (Demandt 49), **Kaiserslautern 0. Att:** 15,000.
Hansa Rostock 1 (Bodden 59), **Hamburger SV 2** (J. Bode 26, Furtok 70). **Att:** 20,000.
Karlsruher SC 1 (Carl 66), **FC Nurnberg 0. Att:** 15,000.
Leverkusen 0, Bor Dortmund 2 (Rummenigge 69, Chapuisat 79). **Att:** 18,000.
Stuttgarter Kickers 3 (Moutas 10, Imhof 48, 69), **Borussia Mg 0. Att:** 7,000.

HOLLAND Midweek — Cup

Feyenoord 1, MW 0
Veendam 2, Vitesse 2
SAC Heerenveen 0, PSV 2
VVV 1, BW Den Bosch 1
(VVV win on pens)
SV Meerssen 0, Roda JC 2
NAC 0, Utrecht 1
RKC 2, Telstar 4
FC Volendam 1, TOP 1
(TOP win on pens)
FC Groningen 3, Cambuur L. 2
Rheden 2, FC Twente 1
Eindhoven 2, FC Wageningen 2
(Eindhoven win on pens)
RBC 2, Helmond Sport 0
Haarlem 4, NEC 3
Emmen 1, Excelsior 0

WEEKEND

Ajax 2 (Wouters 51, Bergkamp 84), **Roda JC 0. Att:** 12,700.
PSV 3 (Bwalya 18, Valckx pen 24, Koeman 74), **FC Twente 3** (Mulder 34, Kool 63, De Boer pen 67). **Att:** 22,300.
Feyenoord 2 (Damaschin 30, Taument 86), **Ajax 0.**

CONTINUED OVER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP1

30.05.90 Iceland v Albania	2-0
05.09.90 Iceland v France	1-2
26.09.90 Czechoslovakia v Iceland	1-0
10.10.90 Spain v Iceland	2-1
13.10.90 France v Czechoslovakia	2-1
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia v Spain	3-2
17.11.90 Albania v France	0-1
19.12.90 Spain v Albania	9-0
20.02.91 France v Spain	3-1
30.03.91 France v Albania	5-0
01.05.91 Albania v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26.05.91 Albania v Iceland	1-0
05.06.91 Iceland v Czechoslovakia	0-1
04.09.91 Czechoslovakia v France	1-2
25.09.91 Iceland v Spain	2-0
12.10.91 Spain v France	1-2
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia v Albania	2-1
13.11.91 Spain v Czechoslovakia	2-1
20.11.91 France v Iceland	3-1
18.12.91 Albania v Spain (CANCELLED)	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
FRANCE	8	8	0	0	20	6	16
Czechoslovakia	8	5	0	3	12	9	10
Spain	7	3	0	4	17	12	6
Iceland	8	2	0	6	7	10	4
Albania	7	1	0	6	2	21	2

GROUP 2

12.09.90 Switzerland v Bulgaria	2-0
12.09.90 Scotland v Romania	2-1
17.10.90 Romania v Bulgaria	0-3
17.10.90 Scotland v Switzerland	2-1
14.11.90 Bulgaria v Scotland	1-1
14.11.90 San Marino v Switzerland	0-4
05.12.90 Romania v San Marino	6-0
27.03.91 Scotland v Bulgaria	1-1
27.03.91 San Marino v Romania	1-3
03.04.91 Switzerland v Romania	0-0
01.05.91 Bulgaria v Switzerland	2-3
01.05.91 San Marino v Scotland	0-2
22.05.91 San Marino v Bulgaria	0-3
05.06.91 Switzerland v San Marino	7-0
11.09.91 Switzerland v Scotland	2-2
16.10.91 Bulgaria v San Marino	4-0
16.10.91 Romania v Scotland	1-0
13.11.91 Scotland v San Marino	4-0
13.11.91 Romania v Switzerland	1-0
20.11.91 Bulgaria v Romania	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SCOTLAND	8	4	3	1	14	7	11
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	19	7	10
Romania	8	4	2	2	13	7	10
Bulgaria	8	3	3	2	15	8	9
San Marino	8	0	0	8	1	33	0

GROUP 3

12.09.90 USSR v Norway	2-0
10.10.90 Norway v Hungary	0-0
17.10.90 Hungary v Italy	1-1
31.10.90 Hungary v Cyprus	4-2
03.11.90 Italy v USSR	0-0
14.11.90 Cyprus v Norway	0-3
22.12.90 Cyprus v Italy	0-4
03.04.91 Cyprus v Hungary	0-2
17.04.91 Hungary v USSR	0-1
01.05.91 Italy v Hungary	3-1
01.05.91 Norway v Cyprus	3-0
29.05.91 USSR v Cyprus	4-0
05.06.91 Norway v Italy	2-1
28.08.91 Norway v USSR	0-1
25.09.91 USSR v Hungary	2-2
12.10.91 USSR v Italy	0-0
30.10.91 Hungary v Norway	0-0
13.11.91 Italy v Norway	1-1
13.11.91 Cyprus v USSR	0-3
21.12.91 Italy v Cyprus	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
SOVIET UNION	8	5	3	0	13	2	13
Norway	8	3	3	2	9	5	9
Italy	7	2	4	1	10	5	8
Hungary	8	2	4	2	10	9	8
Cyprus	7	0	0	7	2	23	0

GROUP 4

12.09.90 N.Ireland v Yugoslavia	0-2
12.09.90 Faroe Islands v Austria	1-0
10.10.90 Denmark v Faroe Islands	4-1
17.10.90 N.Ireland v Denmark	1-1
31.10.90 Yugoslavia v Austria	4-1
14.11.90 Denmark v Yugoslavia	0-2
14.11.90 Austria v N.Ireland	0-0
27.03.91 Yugoslavia v N.Ireland	4-1
01.05.91 Yugoslavia v Denmark	1-2
01.05.91 N.Ireland v Faroe Islands	1-1
16.05.91 Yugoslavia v Faroe Islands	7-0
22.05.91 Austria v Faroe Islands	3-0
05.06.91 Denmark v Austria	2-1
11.09.91 Faroe Islands v N.Ireland	0-5
25.09.91 Faroe Islands v Denmark	0-4
09.10.91 Austria v Denmark	0-3
16.10.91 Faroe Islands v Yugoslavia	0-2
16.10.91 N.Ireland v Austria	2-1
13.11.91 Denmark v N.Ireland	2-1
13.11.91 Austria v Yugoslavia	0-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
YUGOSLAVIA	8	7	0	1	24	4	14
Denmark	8	6	1	1	18	7	13
N.Ireland	8	2	3	3	11	11	7
Austria	8	1	1	6	6	14	3
Faroe Islands	8	1	1	6	3	26	3

GROUP 5

17.10.90 Wales v Belgium	3-1
31.10.90 Luxembourg v Germany	2-3
14.11.90 Luxembourg v Wales	0-1
27.02.91 Belgium v Luxembourg	3-0
27.03.91 Belgium v Wales	1-1
01.05.91 Germany v Belgium	1-0
05.06.91 Wales v Germany	1-0
11.09.91 Luxembourg v Belgium	0-2
16.10.91 Germany v Wales	4-1
13.11.91 Wales v Luxembourg	1-0
20.11.91 Belgium v Germany	0-1
18.12.91 Germany v Luxembourg	4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
GERMANY	6	5	0	1	13	4	10
Wales	6	4	1	1	8	6	9
Belgium	6	2	1	3	7	6	5
Luxembourg	6	0	0	5	2	14	0

GROUP 6

12.09.90 Finland v Portugal	0-0
17.10.90 Portugal v Holland	1-0
31.10.90 Greece v Malta	4-0
21.11.90 Holland v Greece	2-0
25.11.90 Malta v Finland	1-1
19.12.90 Malta v Holland	0-8
23.01.91 Greece v Portugal	3-2
09.02.91 Malta v Portugal	0-1
20.02.91 Portugal v Malta	5-0
13.03.91 Holland v Malta	1-0
17.04.91 Holland v Finland	2-0
16.05.91 Finland v Malta	2-0
05.06.91 Finland v Holland	1-1
11.09.91 Portugal v Finland	1-0
09.10.91 Finland v Greece	1-1
16.10.91 Holland v Portugal	1-0
30.10.91 Greece v Finland	2-0
20.11.91 Portugal v Greece	1-0
04.12.91 Greece v Holland	0-2
22.12.91 Malta v Greece	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
HOLLAND	8	6	1	1	17	2	13
Portugal	8	5	1	2	11	4	11
Greece	7	3	1	3	10	8	7
Finland	8	1	4	3	5	8	6
Malta	7	0	1	6	1	22	1

GROUP 7

17.10.90 England v Poland	2-0
17.10.90 Rep.of Ireland v Turkey	5-0
14.11.90 Rep.of Ireland v England	1-1
14.11.90 Turkey v Poland	0-1
27.03.91 England v Rep.of Ireland	1-1
17.04.91 Poland v Turkey	3-0
01.05.91 Turkey v England	0-1
01.05.91 Rep.of Ireland v Poland	0-0
16.10.91 Poland v Rep.of Ireland	3-3
16.10.91 England v Turkey	1-0
13.11.91 Turkey v Rep.of Ireland	1-3
13.11.91 Poland v England	1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	6	3	3	0	7	3	9
Rep.of Ireland	6	2	4	0	13	6	8
Poland	6	2	3	1	8	6	7
Turkey	6	0	0	6	1	14	0

ITALY Weekend

Atalanta 1 (Caniggia 42), **Fiorentina 0. Att:** 20,300.
Bari 1 (Platt 44), **Lazio 2** (Doll 39, Riedle 73). **Att:** 40,000.
Cagliari 0, Parma 0. Att: 15,00.
Cremonese 0, Foggia 2 (Signori 35, Baiano 39). **Att:** 12,600.
Internazionale 2 (Berti 47, Ferri 52),
Ascoli 1 (Troglio 90). **Att:** 40,000.
Juventus 1 (Casiraghi 11), **Torino 0. Att:** 58,600.
AS Roma 1 (Di Mauro 44), **Napoli 1** (Zola 77). **Att:** 58,500.
Sampdoria 0, AC Milan 2 (Gullit 64, 69). **Att:** 37,000.
Verona 2 (Prytz pen 23, Raducioiu 49),
Genoa 1 (Eranio 29). **Att:** 20,000.

SCOTLAND Midweek

Airdrie 3 (Coyle 27, 53, Smith 30),
Dunfermline 1 (Moyes 23). **Att:** 2,000.
Falkirk 3 (McAllister 30, May 37, 80),
Hibernian 2 (McGinlay 34, 69). **Att:** 5,735.

Weekend

Dundee United 2 (Ferreyre 44, Wittaker o.g. 53), **Falkirk 1** (McAllister 79). **Att:** 7,290.
Dunfermline 1 (Leitch 71), **Hibernian 2** (McGinlay 12, Wright 51). **Att:** 6,001.
Heart of Midlothian 3 (Wright 55, Levein 61, Crabbe 78), **Celtic 1** (Coyne 14). **Att:** 22,666.
Motherwell 1 (Russell 62), **St Johnstone 1** (Wright 46). **Att:** 4,570.
Rangers 4 (Robertson 6, Hateley 46, 81, McCoist 55), **Airdrie 0. Att:** 3,934.
St Mirren 0, Aberdeen 1 (McIntyre o.g. 51). **Att:** 3663.

SPAIN Weekend

La Coruna 0, Barcelona 4 (Koeman pen 29, Stoichkov 59, Laudrup 68, Beguiristain 82). **Att:** 20,000.
Albacete 2 (Chesa 80, Urzaiz 89),
Logrones 0. Att: 10,000.
Burgos 0, Real Madrid 2 (Luis Enrique 47, Hierro 72). **Att:** 14,000.
Mallorca 0, Sp. Gijon 1 (Avelino 90). **Att:** 8,000.
Espanol 1 (Escaich 79), **Sevilla 1** (Zamorano 20). **Att:** 30,000.
Real Sociedad 2 (Oceano pen 70, Ciganda o.g. 84), **Athletic Bilbao 0. Att:** 17,000.
Zaragoza 2 (Pardeza pen 48, Solana 54),
Valladolid 0. Att: 26,000.
Oviedo 2 (Carlos 2, Vinals 79), **Cadiz 1** (Gorriaran o.g. 90). **Att:** 15,562.
Atletico Madrid 1 (Sabas 80), **Tenerife 0. Att:** 43,000.
Osasuna 0, Valencia 1 (Eloy 50). **Att:** 15,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Aarau 0, Servette 1
Grasshoppers 2, Young Boys 1
Lausanne Sports 2, Wettingen 0
Neuchatel Xamax 3, Lugano 0
St Gallen v FC Zurich — postponed.
Sion 2, FC Luzern 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOV 24

AUSTRIA Weekend

Austria Salzburg 5, Kremser 2
FC Tirol 2, Vorwarts 1
Alpine 0, Austria Wien 2
Stahl Linz 2, Vienna 1
St Polten 3, Sturm Graz 1
Rapid Wien 1, Admira Wacker 1

BELGIUM Weekend

Waregem 1 (Decraeya 72), **FC Liege 2** (Varga 61, Monos 86). **Att:** 2,800.
Charleroi 0, Lierse 0. Att: 6,000.
KV Mechelen 2 (Severeyns 86, Eijkelkamp 88), **Aalst 0. Att:** 7,700.
Standard 2 (Van Rooy pen 26, Wilmots 87), **Kortrijk 0. Att:** 12,000.
Gent 1 (Van der Linden 26), **Antwerp 0. Att:** 8,000.
Beveren 2 (Nwanu 59, Deraeve o.g. 75),
Lokeren 3 (Meszaros 52, 65, Hoes 56). **Att:** 6,000.
Cercle Brugge 1 (Weber 47), **Anderlecht 1** (Boffin 49). **Att:** 7,500.
Molenbeek 0, Club Brugge 1 (Dziubinzki 65). **Att:** 7,000.
Ekeren 1 (Hofmans 8), **Genk 1** (Gyimesi 66). **Att:** 3,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

LEAGUE CUP — Replays

Crystal Palace 1, Birmingham City 1
Port Vale 1, Liverpool 4
QPR 1, Manchester City 3
Southampton 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0

Weekend

Aston Villa 1 (Yorke 68), **Leeds United 4** (Wallace 40, Sterland 46, Chapman 56, 90). **Att:** 23,714.
Everton 1 (Cottee 37), **Notts County 0. Att:** 24,230.
Luton Town 2 (Harford 17, Dreyer 56),
Manchester City 2 (Curle 46, Quinn 60). **Att:** 10,031.
Manchester United 2 (Giggs 15, Robson 42), **West Ham United 1** (McAvennie 76). **Att:** 47,185.
Norwich City 3 (Bowen 46, Fleck 85, Sutton 90), **Coventry City 2** (Gallacher 28, 47). **Att:** 12,056.
Nottingham Forest 5 (Sheringham 6, pen 89, Pearce 14, Gemmill 49, Woan 65),
Crystal Palace 1 (Thomas 84). **Att:** 22,387.
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 31), **Oldham Athletic 3** (Henry 26, Palmer 29, Sharp 32). **Att:** 8,947.
Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Hirst 19),
Arsenal 1 (Bould 64). **Att:** 32,174.
Southampton 1 (Shearer 42), **Chelsea 0. Att:** 14,933.
Tottenham 0, Sheffield United 1 (Deane 54). **Att:** 28,158.
Wimbledon 0, Liverpool 0. Att: 13,373.

FRANCE Weekend

Montpellier 2 (Laurey 45, Divert 75),
Nancy 0. Att: 7,000.
Monaco 0, Le Havre 2 (Sonor o.g. 54, Kana Biyik 88). **Att:** 3,000.
Caen 1 (Paille 85), **Sochaux 1** (Thomas 9). **Att:** 8,559.
Toulon 1 (Meyrieu 26), **Toulouse 0. Att:** 3,000.
Metz 4 (Serredszum 29, Kubik 31, Stopyra 58, Hinschberger 90), **Nimes 0. Att:** 10,136.
Rennes 0, St Etienne 0. Att: 14,513.
Paris SG 1 (Perez 61), **Lens 0. Att:** 30,000.
Lille 1 (Henrik Nielsen 31), **Auxerre 0. Att:** 5,300.
Lyon 0, Nantes 1 (Capron 8). **Att:** 12,667.
Cannes 1 (Omam Biyik 44), **Marseille 2** (Waddle 12, Papin 16). **Att:** 13,000.

GERMANY Weekend

VfL Bochum 2 (U Wegmann 24, Benatelli 81), **Stuttgarter Kickers 2** (Kelm 59, Moutas 69). **Att:** 10,000.
Borussia Mg 1 (Stadler 39),
Wattenscheid 0. Att: 14,000.
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Rummenigge 37, Tarnat o.g. 78), **Duisburg 1** (Tonnies 39). **Att:** 48,912.
Bayern Munich 1 (Effenberg 8),
Karlsruher 0. Att: 20,000.
Nurnberg 1 (Weidemann 30), **Werder Bremen 0. Att:** 36,500.
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Weber 46, Yeboah 48), **Hansa Rostock 0. Att:** 21,000.
Hamburger SV 1 (Rohde 81), **F. Dusseldorf 1** (Demandt 58). **Att:** 13,000.
Kaiserslautern 1 (Kuntz 20), **Schalke 1** (A. Muller 45). **Att:** 38,000.
Vfb Stuttgart 2 (F. Walter 74, 87), **Bayer Leverkusen 0. Att:** 21,500.

GREECE

Korinthos 1, Serres 0
Pierikos 2, Athinaikos 1
Apollon 2, Xanthi 0
Larissa 2, Ethnikos 0
PAOK 3, Doxa Drama 2
Heraklis 1, Aris Salonika 1
Olympiakos 3, Panionios 1
Panahaiki 2, AEK Athens 3
Panathinaikos 1, OFI Crete 1

HOLLAND Weekend

Willem II 0, Roda JC 2 (Hofstede o.g. 75, Arnold 83). **Att:** 4,500.
Fortuna Sittard 0, Feyenoord 1 (Scholten 39). **Att:** 6,000.
FC Groningen 2 (Drent 38, Zuurman 44),
RKC 0. Att: 13,129.
FC Den Haag 2 (Van Ejkeren 71, Danen 83), **VVV 2** (Rutten pen 54, Venetiaan 79). **Att:** 2,153.
Sparta 1 (Van Arum 6), **Vitesse 1** (Vurens 19). **Att:** 4,000.
FC Utrecht 3 (Bijl 33, 73, Smorlarek pen 67), **MVV 2** (Meijer 50, Visser 58). **Att:** 5,000.
De Graafschap 0, PSV 2 (Kieft 43, 68). **Att:** 9,610.
FC Twente 0, Ajax 0. Att: 13,000.

ITALY Midweek

AC Milan 1 (Van Basten pen 85), **Genoa 1** (Skuhravy 12). **Att:** 77,000.

Weekend

Ascoli 0, Juventus 2 (Kohler 1, Casiraghi 60). **Att:** 30,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Orlando 27), **Lazio 1** (Sosa pen 71). **Att:** 29,000.
Foggia 2 (Signori 18, Picasso 46),
Atalanta 3 (Nicolini 10, Perrone 13, 64). **Att:** 24,000.
Genoa 2 (Skuhravy 31, Caricola 72),
Cagliari 2 (Francescoli 48, Fonseca 58). **Att:** 28,000.
AC Milan 3 (Van Basten 23, Gullit 37, Fuser 76), **Cremonese 1** (Lombardini 54). Att:65,000.
Napoli 1 (Zola 53), **Bari 0. Att:** 35,000.
Parma 1 (Cuoghi 33), **Internazionale 1** (Fontolan 15). Att:22,000.
AS Roma 2 (Rizzitelli 47, Giannini 76),
Sampdoria 0. Att: 50,700.
Torino 0, Verona 0. Att: 30,000.

PORTUGAL Midweek

Salgueiros 0, Vit. Guimares 1

Weekend

Sp. Lisbon 2, Farense 1
Estoril 2, Vit. Guimares 0
Torriense 0, Gil Vicente 2
Maritimo 0, Boavista 0
Pacos Ferreira 2, Salgueiros 1
Chaves 1, Penafiel 0
FC Porto 3, Uniao Madeira 0
Famalicao 1, Beira-Mar 1
Sp. Braga 0, Benfica 2

SCOTLAND Midweek

Hibernian 0, Rangers 3 (Hateley 56, McCoist 71, 82). **Att:** 18,000.
Aberdeen 0, Heart of Midlothian 2 (Baird 8, Robertson 81). **Att:** 15,000.
Celtic 2 (Nicholas 9, 18), **Motherwell 2** (Arnott 11, 16). **Att:** 16,215.
Falkirk 0, Dunfermline 1 (Moyes 18). **Att:** 4,700.
St Johnstone 1 (Stewart pen 50), **St Mirren 0. Att:** 5,808.

Weekend

Airdrie 0, Celtic 3 (Cascarino 55, Coyne 75, Creaney 85). **Att:** 10,000.
Dundee United 0, Hearts 1 (Robertson 63). **Att:** 12,796.
Dunfermline 0, Motherwell 0. Att: 4,697.
Falkirk 2 (Stainrod 46, Rice pen 62), **St Johnstone 3** (Redford 19, Stewart pen 50, Maskrey 66). **Att:** 5,147.
Hibernian 1 (Lennon 90), **Aberdeen 0. Att:** 8,992.
Rangers 0, St Mirren 1 (McGowne 44). **Att:** 33,372.

SPAIN Weekend

La Coruna 2 (Claudio pen 16, Jose Ramon 65), **Albacete 2** (Zalazar 10, Juarez 80). **Att:** 10,000.
Logrones 1 (Garcia 14), **Burgos 2** (Loren 9, Ayucar 50). **Att:** 12,000.
Real Madrid 2 (Hagi 47, Alfonso 78),
Mallorca 0. Att: 70,000.
Sp. Gijon 3 (Juanele 48, Monchu 73, 90),
Espanol 0. Att: 18,000.
Sevilla 2 (Suker 35, 79), **Real Sociedad 2** (Oceano 38, Luis Perez 64). **Att:** 46,000.
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Valverde 32), **Zaragoza 0. Att:** 40,000.
Valladolid 1 (Valderrama 42), **Oviedo 1** (Rivas 16). **Att:** 20,000.
Cadiz 1 (Mejias 14), **Atletico Madrid 1** (Donato 30). **Att:** 11,000.
Tenerife 0, Osasuna 0. Att: 20,000.
Barcelona 3 (Amor 35, Laudrup 58, 78),
Valencia 1 (Eloy 76). **Att:** 55,000.

SWITZERLAND Midweek

St Gallen 0, FC Zurich 0

Weekend

Grasshoppers 0, Sion 1
Lugano 2, FC Zurich 2
FC Luzern 1, Lausanne 0
St Gallen 2, Aarau 0
Servette 1, Neuchatel 1
Wettingen 0, Young Boys 1

SOUTH AMERICAN RESULTS

ARGENTINA

National A Division (1st round)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
River Plate	11	10	1	0	17	3	21
Boca Juniors	12	5	6	1	16	11	16
Talleres (x)	11	6	3	2	13	9	15
Independiente	12	5	4	3	15	10	14
Velez (x)	11	5	3	3	18	10	13
San Lorenzo	12	2	9	1	8	6	13
Gimnasia	12	4	5	3	8	9	13
Platense	12	3	6	3	10	10	12
Arg. Juniors	12	2	8	2	8	8	12
Union SF	12	2	7	3	8	9	11
Dep. Espanol	12	4	3	5	12	13	11
FC Oeste	12	4	3	5	10	11	11
B. Cordoba	12	2	7	3	9	10	11
Rosario Central	12	3	5	4	10	12	11
Estudiantes	12	2	6	4	9	11	10
Dep. Mandiyu	11	3	4	4	9	13	10
Huracan	12	2	6	4	9	16	10
Racing Club	12	1	6	5	7	11	8
Quilmes	12	1	6	5	5	10	8
Newell's	12	1	4	7	5	13	6

(x) Match suspended with Talleres leading 1-0, pending disciplinary committee decision.

***Lowest relegation averages** (of points over last three seasons):* Belgrano 0,916; Union 0,897; Dep.Espanol 0,795; Quilmes 0,666.

BRAZIL

State Championships
Sao Paulo — Final group standings (leaders)
Green group: 1) Corinthians 32 pts; 2) Palmeiras 31 (on goals); 3) Botafogo 31; 4) Portuguesa 30 (on goals); 5) Guarani 30; 6) Bragantino 29; 7) Santos 27; 8) Ituano 26 — *Top five in semi-finals.*
Yellow group: 1) Sao Paulo 42; 2) Internacional 34; 3) Santo Andre 32; 4) Noroeste 28 (on goals); 5) Saocarlense 28; 6) Juventus 28; 7) Ponte Preta 27; 8) Rio Branco 25 — *Top three in semi-finals.*
Semi-finals
Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Corinthians	3	3	0	0	5	1	6
Portuguesa	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Santo Andre	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Internacional	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sao Paulo	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Palmeiras	3	2	0	1	7	5	4
Guarani	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Botafogo	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

Group winners meet in final — if level on points, total points obtained in competition are counted.
Guanabara (Rio) _ 2nd round:
1) Botafogo 14 pts; 2) Flamengo 12; 3) Vasco da Gama, Campo Grande, Fluminense 10; 6) America 8; 7) Americano, America-Tres Rios 6; 9) Bangu 5; 10) Itaperuna 4; 11) Goytacaz 3; 12) Sao Cristovao 2.

BOLIVIA

2nd Championship
1) Bolivar 21 pts; 2) Oriente Petrolero 15; 3) San Jose, Blooming (one game less), The Strongest, Orcobol 14; 7) Real Santa Cruz 13; 8) Petrolero 11; 9) Ciclon 8; 10) Independiente Petrolero, Chaco 7; 12) Destroyers (one game less) 6; 13) Always Ready 5.

COLOMBIA

Closing Championship
Leaders *(with bonus points for final round):* 1) Atletico Junior 40 pts (1); 2) Quindio 36 (3/4); 3) America 38 (1/2); 4) Nacional 35 (1/4).
Overall standings — Top 8 qualify for final round *(bonus points in brackets):* 1) Atletico Junior 54 (1); 2) Quindio 51 (3/4); 3) Millonarios (1), America (1/2) 49; 5) Nacional 48 (1/4); 6) Independiente Santa Fe (3/4), Independiente Medellin (1/4) 46; 8) Bucaramanga 45 (1/2); 9) Union Magdalena 42; 10) Caldas (Once Philips) 39; 11) Deportivo Cali 37; 12) Cucuta 26; 13) Sporting Barranquilla 24; 14) Dep.Tolima, Dep. Perreira 22.
Final round *(after 3 games)*
Group (A): 1) Nacional 4.25 pts; 2) Junior 4; 3) Independiente Medellin 3.25; 4) Millonarios 3.
Group B: 1) America 4.50; 2) Independiente Santa Fe 3.75; 3) Bucaramanga 3.25; 4) Quindio 2.75.

CHILE

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Colo Colo	25	16	5	4	49	20	37
Coquimbo	25	13	7	5	34	28	33
Univ. Catolica	25	14	4	7	48	33	32
O'Higgins	25	12	6	7	39	28	30
Cobreloa	25	11	5	9	51	33	27
Antofagasta	25	8	10	7	20	19	26
Concepcion	25	9	8	8	32	38	26
Fernandez Vial	25	10	5	10	19	25	25
Everton	25	8	7	10	27	29	23
Palestino	25	6	11	8	30	35	23
Univ. Chile	25	7	7	11	31	31	21
Cobresal	25	6	9	10	29	31	21
La Serena	25	8	5	12	35	50	21
Union Espanola	25	8	4	13	37	40	20
Osorno	25	5	8	12	30	47	18
Wanderers	25	3	10	12	21	45	16

URUGUAY

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Penarol	22	9	9	4	25	24	27
Nacional	22	10	7	5	31	22	27
Defensor	22	10	7	5	22	13	27
Cent. Espanol	22	8	10	4	24	20	26
Liverpool	22	6	13	3	23	18	25
Danubio	22	9	7	6	23	16	25
Wanderers	22	6	12	4	19	19	24
Cerro	22	4	13	5	16	17	21
Huracan Buceo	22	8	5	9	27	28	21
Bella Vista	22	4	13	5	19	25	21
Racing Club	22	5	10	7	17	23	20
Progreso	22	4	8	10	18	27	16
Rentistas	22	3	8	11	15	24	14
Sisley	22	4	6	12	14	26	14

VENEZUELA

First Division

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Lara	7	4	2	1	10
Minerven	7	4	2	1	10
Trujillanes	7	4	2	1	10
Tachira	7	4	1	2	9
Maritimo	7	3	3	1	9
Caracas FC	7	3	3	1	9
Mineros	7	2	4	1	8
Anzoategui	7	1	5	1	7
Univ. Abdes	7	2	3	2	7
Monagas	7	2	2	3	6
Estudiantes	7	1	4	2	6
Zamora	7	2	2	3	6
Industriales	7	1	3	3	5
Portuguesa	7	1	2	4	4
Italia	7	1	1	5	3
Salineros	7	0	3	4	3

PERU

Decentralized championship
Metropolitan Division *(final)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Universitario	22	12	8	2	37	18	32
Sport Boys	22	10	10	2	30	18	30
Defensor Lima	22	12	4	6	35	27	28
Sporting Cristal	22	11	6	5	42	25	28
Alianza Lima	22	8	10	4	33	22	26
San Agustin	22	9	6	7	28	19	24
D. Municipal	22	9	6	7	30	27	24
Yurimaguas	22	8	7	7	30	26	23
Union Huaral	22	5	10	7	27	32	20
AELU	22	4	3	15	17	45	11
Internazionale	22	1	8	13	18	39	10
Octavio Espinoza	22	3	2	17	16	44	8

Top four qualify for final round — bottom four relegated.
Winners of other divisions in final round:
South: Melgar (Arequipa); **North:** Alianza Atletico (Sullana); **Central:** Leon (Huanuco); **Oriental:** Colegio Nacional (Iquitos).

ECUADOR

First Division *(3rd stage)*
Final — Group 1: 1) Valdez 9.5 pts; 2) Barcelona 9; 3) Tecnico Universitario 5; 4) Green Cross 4.
Group 2: 1) Nacional 7.5; 2) Deportivo Quito 7; 3) Liga Universitaria de Quito 6.5; 4) Emelec 5.5 *(including bonus points)* .
Top two of each group qualify for final round.
Final round *(after 3 games):* 1) Barcelona 5 pts; 2) Valdez 4; 3) Dep. Quito 2; 4) Nacional 1.

PARAGUAY

First Division *(2nd round)*
Final — *(11 games):* 1) Cerro Porteno 16 pts; 2) Olimpia, Atletico Colegiales, Sol de America 14; 5) Nacional, Guarani 13; 7) San Lorenzo, Cerro Cora 11; 9) Sportivo Luqueno 10; 10) River Plate 6; 11) Sport Colombia, Libertad 5.
(Top four qualify for final round with bonus points of one, .75, 0, .50 and 0.25 respectively together with 1st round qualifiers plus Nacional and Guarani who also qualify as Olimpia and Colegiales had qualified in both rounds).

EL SALVADOR

First Division
1) Luis Angel Firpo 17 pts; 2) Alianza, Marte 16; 4) FAS 13; 5) Aguila, Furto San Francisco 11; 7) Metapan, Baygon-ADET 10; 9) Cojutepeque, Tiburones 8.

MEXICO

First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Group 1							
Atlas	11	6	2	3	15	9	14
Univ. Mexico	10	4	3	3	16	12	11
Univ. Guadalajara	11	4	3	4	12	10	11
Veracruz	11	4	0	7	13	16	8
Cobras C. Juarez	11	1	2	8	9	19	4
Group 2							
Puebla	11	4	5	2	12	10	13
Univ. Tamaulipas	11	4	4	3	14	8	12
Monterrey	11	3	5	3	14	13	11
Guadalajara	10	2	5	3	7	12	9
Queretaro	11	2	4	5	9	16	8
Group 3							
Cruz Azul	11	6	3	2	17	12	15
Santos	11	4	5	2	12	12	13
Leon	11	2	8	1	11	7	12
Necaxa	11	2	4	5	12	14	8
Toluca	11	1	6	4	9	17	8
Group 4							
Atlante	11	6	4	1	21	14	16
Morelia	11	5	4	2	16	10	14
America	10	4	4	2	15	11	12
Univ. Nuevo Leon	11	3	3	5	14	20	9
Univ. Guadalajara	10	3	2	5	10	16	8

Top two of each group qualify for quarter-finals.

HONDURAS

First Division
1) Real Espana 33 pts; 2) Motagua 28; 3) Olimpia 27; 4) Victoria 23; 5) Platense 23; 6) Marathon 22; 7) Vida 21; 8) Petrotela 19; 9) Super Estrella 17; 10) Atletico Indio 15.

GUATEMALA

First Division *(1st round completed)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Municipal	11	7	3	1	20	3	17
Comunicaciones	11	5	5	1	23	11	15
Chiquimulilla	11	6	2	3	24	19	14
Galcasa	11	4	4	3	19	18	12
Juv. Retalteca	11	4	4	3	19	15	12
Izabal	11	5	1	5	21	20	11
Escuintla	11	5	1	5	16	18	11
Aurora	11	4	3	4	14	17	11
Del Monte	11	2	5	4	17	17	9
Suchitepequez	11	3	3	5	10	12	9
Xelaju	11	2	3	6	11	25	7
Tipo. Nacional	11	1	2	8	12	28	4

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
Semi-finals, 1st leg
October 31. In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 1 (Marquinhos)
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Guirland)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Jose Torres (Col).
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Zelao, Paulao, Adilson, Nonato, Ademir, Boiadeiro, Luiz Fernando, Mario Tilico, Charles (Macalet), Marquinhos.

impia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, elgado, Suarez, Balbuena, Guasch, Jara eyn, Guirland (Romero), Gonzalez astro), Sanabria.

● Olimpia's defence, with Battaglia and elgado outstanding, withstood emendous first half pressure and was ily beaten once, but they managed to ive a bit more of the play after the erval when they equalized in a counter-tack.

Buenos Aires, Argentina.
VER PLATE (Arg) 2 (H. Diaz, Borrelli)
ENAROL (Uru) 0
T: 2-0. **Ref:** Jose Wright (Bra).
ver Plate: Comizzo, Gordillo, Higuain, varola, Enrique, Toresani, Astrada apata), H. Diaz, Borrelli, R. Diaz, Silvani.
enarol: Alvez, Rosa, Sanchez, Montero, ominguez, Martinez, Dorta, Viera (Dely ildez), Cedres, Paulinho, Lopez.

● River Plate scored two in the first half our and seemed to have no problems as ey had more goal chances, but Penarol, no had more of the ball, could not find a ay to get through.

Semi-finals, 2nd leg
November 7. In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
Att: 40,000.
Agg score: 1-1, Cruzeiro won 5-3 on pens.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres (Franco), Delgado, Ramirez, Suarez, Balbuena, Guasch, Jara Heyn, Guirland, Sanabria, Gonzalez.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Zelao, Paulao, Adilson, Nonato, Ademir, Boiadeiro, Luis Fernando (Paulinho), Tilico, Charles, Andrade (Macale).

● Neither team was at its best under constant rain. In an even first half Olimpia came a bit closer, but they were well on top in the second half looking for the goal they needed to hang on to the trophy. Olimpia missed chances and finally it had to be decided on penalties even though Cruzeiro had a man sent off (defender Paulao). Cruzeiro converted all five penalties through Adilson, Boiadeiro, Tilico, Charles and Nonato while Suarez, Ramirez and Franco scored for Olimpia after Guirland sent the first shot wide.

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uru) 1
(Villar)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 3
(Borrelli, R. Diaz, Medino Bello)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par). **Att:** 30,000.
River Plate won 5-1 on agg.
Penarol: Alvez, Rosa, Sanchez, Montero, Dominguez, A. Martinez, Dorta, Cedres, S. Martinez, Paulinho (Myers), Lopez (Villar).
River Plate: Comizzo, Gordillo, Higuain, Rivarola, Enrique, H. Diaz, Astrada, Borrelli, Berti (Zapata), Medina Bello, R. Diaz (Silvani).

● Under continual rain, River Plate played an intelligent defence and counter-attack game and while Penarol had more of the ball and field at times, they could not get past the Argentine team's defensive set-up. As Penarol became more desperate to score and nervous with the minutes ticking away, River Plate's counter-attacks told with Borrelli, Ramon Diaz and Medina Bello all scoring within 17 minutes after 60, 67 and 77.

Final (1st leg)
November 13. In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Rivarola pen.,Higuain)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:**Orellana (Ecu). **Att:** 60,000.
River Plate: Comizzo, Gordillo, Higuain, Rivarola, Enrique, H. Diaz, Astrada (Zapata), Borrelli, Medina Bello, R. Diaz, Silvani.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Zelao, Vanderci, Adilson, Donato, Andrade, Ademir, Boiadeiro, Luis Fernando, Tilico (Paulinho), Charles (Macale).

● River Plate were the better team at the start, but had trouble stopping dangerous Tilico. However the Argentine team's intense attacks brought a penalty goal after 31 minutes — deservedly although it came from a casual hand-ball — but they could have led 3-0 at the break. River Plate tired in the second half however and Cruzeiro took the initiative and the Argentine team's lead looked slender until Higuain scored the second just as time was running out.

Final (2nd leg)
November 20.In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 3 (Ademir, Tilico, Marquinhos)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hernan Silva (Chi). **Att:** 80,000.
Cruzeiro won 3-2 on agg.
Cruzeiro: Paulo Cesar, Nonato, Paulao, Adilson, Celio Gaucho, Boiadeiro, Ademir, Luis Fernando (Macale), Tilico (Paulinho), Charles, Marquinhos.
River Plate: Comizzo, Gordillo, Higuain, Rivarola, Enrique, H. Diaz (Berti), Astrada, Borrelli, Zapata (Toresani), Medina Bello, R. Diaz.

● River Plate were surprisingly outplayed by a top form Cruzeiro and never got into the game. Cruzeiro were constantly on the attack playing a fast aggressive game.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
Oct. 31: America (Mex) 2 Nacional (Uru) 0;
Nov. 13: America (Mex) 2 Santos (Bra) 1.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

REPUBLIC OF RELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
helbourne	15	11	4	1	26	8	26
erry City	17	10	5	2	22	4	25
undalk	17	9	4	4	24	15	22
amrock R.	17	7	7	3	18	10	21
ork City	17	6	8	3	22	16	20
ohemians	16	7	5	4	22	15	19
Patrick's	17	6	7	4	19	20	19
rogheda Utd	17	3	7	7	12	26	13
igo Rovers	17	3	6	8	15	18	12
ray Wand.	17	4	4	9	10	22	12
thlone Town	17	1	5	11	9	26	7
alway Utd	17	2	2	13	16	35	6

NORTHERN RELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
lentoran	12	9	2	1	33	10	29
ortadown	12	9	1	2	23	7	28
nfield	12	8	2	2	26	8	26
rds	12	6	3	3	28	20	21
arne	12	6	3	3	22	16	21
lenavon	12	9	1	2	23	7	19
magh	12	6	1	5	22	17	19
rusaders	12	5	2	5	21	17	17
allymena Utd	12	4	3	5	16	19	15
liftonville	12	4	3	5	15	18	15
allyclare	12	3	4	5	18	26	13
ewry	12	4	0	8	11	26	12
angor	12	3	1	8	18	26	10
oleraine	12	2	4	6	15	24	10
istillery	12	1	3	8	9	25	6
arrick Ran.	12	1	3	8	10	34	6

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
learts	24	17	5	2	35	17	39
angers	24	17	3	4	59	19	37
eltic	24	13	6	5	51	25	32
ibernian	24	10	11	3	32	22	31
berdeen	24	12	4	8	34	22	28
undee Utd	24	8	11	5	36	27	27
lotherwell	24	7	8	9	24	29	22
t Johnstone	24	8	4	12	27	43	20
alkirk	24	6	7	11	34	42	19
irdrie	24	6	3	15	26	44	15
t Mirren	24	2	7	15	16	44	11
unfermline	24	1	5	18	10	50	7

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lausanne	22	10	10	2	42	17	30
irasshoppers	22	12	5	5	39	24	29
C Sion	22	9	10	3	34	20	28
ervette	22	10	7	5	37	28	27
leuchatel X.	22	9	6	7	28	22	24
t Gallen	22	8	5	8	27	32	22
oung Boys	22	8	5	9	30	30	21
C Zurich	22	4	12	6	22	25	20
C Luzern	22	5	10	7	21	26	20
C Lugano	22	6	8	8	25	36	20
C Aarau	22	3	8	11	21	39	14
Vettingen	22	1	7	14	18	45	9

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apollon	12	8	3	1	18	6	19
AEK	12	8	2	2	21	10	18
Panathinaikos	12	7	3	2	25	7	17
Olympiakos	12	7	3	2	28	14	17
PAOK	12	5	6	1	16	14	16
Aris	12	5	4	3	12	9	14
Iraklis	12	5	3	4	12	11	13
Larissa	12	4	4	4	13	13	12
Doxa Drama	12	4	3	5	18	14	11
OFI Crete	12	3	5	4	12	10	11
Corinthos	12	5	1	6	17	22	11
Xanthi	12	5	0	7	15	18	10
Panachaiki	12	3	3	6	18	22	9
Pierikos	12	3	3	6	14	22	9
Panserraikos	12	2	4	6	9	18	8
Athinaikos	12	3	2	7	12	20	8
Panionios	12	2	3	7	9	22	7
Ethnikos	12	1	4	7	9	23	6

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Dortmund	22	12	6	4	40	31	30
Ein. Frankfurt	22	11	7	4	48	24	29
Stuttgart	22	11	6	5	37	19	28
Kaiserslautern	22	11	6	5	37	21	28
Leverkusen	22	8	9	5	30	22	25
Nurnberg	22	9	6	7	31	26	24
Schalke	22	8	7	7	32	26	23
Koln	22	5	13	4	30	27	23
W. Bremen	22	8	6	8	28	27	22
Hamburg	22	6	10	6	21	26	22
Bayern Munich	22	7	7	8	31	33	21
MSV Duisburg	22	5	11	6	26	29	21
Karlsruhe	22	7	6	9	24	31	20
Borussia Mg	22	7	6	9	20	30	20
Hansa Rostock	22	7	5	10	30	36	19
Bochum	22	5	8	9	22	34	18
Dresden	22	6	6	10	19	32	18
Wattenscheid	22	5	7	10	26	37	17
Stuttgart	22	5	6	11	30	40	16
F. Dusseldorf	22	5	6	11	27	38	16

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	18	12	6	0	40	18	30
Feyenoord	19	12	6	1	28	10	30
Ajax	18	11	3	4	40	13	25
Vitesse	19	9	6	4	28	15	24
Twente	19	9	5	5	36	22	23
Sparta	19	7	7	4	29	29	21
Roda JC	19	8	5	6	26	25	21
Groningen	17	7	6	4	25	17	20
Utrecht	19	5	10	4	21	19	20
RKC Waalwijk	19	5	8	6	34	32	18
SVV/Dordrecht	18	7	3	8	28	38	17
Willem II	18	5	5	8	19	25	15
Maastricht	18	4	7	7	16	24	15
Volendam	19	5	5	9	18	24	15
Den Haag	19	2	7	10	13	39	11
Fortuna Sittard	18	1	8	9	16	29	10
De Graafschap	19	3	4	12	17	33	10
VVV Venlo	18	1	5	12	17	39	7

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	17	12	4	1	30	7	25
Red Star	16	10	2	4	36	14	22
Sarajevo	17	8	4	5	20	16	19
Proleter	17	8	3	6	23	22	19
Belgrade	17	7	6	4	30	22	17
Zemun	17	8	2	7	27	20	17
Vojvodina	17	8	2	7	18	20	17
Vardar	17	7	3	7	24	16	16
Borac	17	7	5	5	13	13	16
Zeljeznicar	16	6	3	7	18	19	15
Radnicki	17	7	1	9	18	21	15
Rad	17	7	2	8	23	25	14
Velez	17	6	3	8	20	27	14
Sloboda	17	5	2	10	16	31	12
Pelister	17	5	2	10	17	32	11
Spartak	17	5	3	9	14	31	11
Sutjeska	17	5	2	10	22	26	10
Buducnost	17	4	5	8	10	19	9

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	13	9	3	1	19	1	21
Benfica	14	8	5	1	24	9	21
Sporting	14	8	3	3	21	8	19
Vit. Guimaraes	14	8	3	3	23	15	19
Boavista	14	6	4	3	17	12	18
Chaves	14	6	3	5	16	15	15
Maritimo	14	4	5	4	13	13	14
Estoril	14	5	4	5	14	15	14
Gil Vicente	14	4	5	5	9	11	13
Beira Mar	14	4	5	5	11	14	13
Farense	13	4	3	6	15	18	11
Sporting Braga	14	4	3	7	14	19	11
Saigueiros	14	4	3	7	11	17	11
Famalicao	14	4	3	7	14	24	11
Uniao	14	4	3	7	10	20	11
Penafiel	14	3	4	7	8	16	10
Torriense	14	3	3	8	16	21	9
Paco Ferreira	14	3	3	8	11	18	9

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	14	12	2	0	36	8	26
At. Madrid	14	9	1	4	22	12	19
Barcelona	14	7	4	3	30	19	18
Gijon	14	7	3	4	16	12	17
Zaragoza	14	6	5	3	18	12	17
Burgos	14	6	5	3	16	10	17
Sevilla	14	6	4	4	23	16	16
Valencia	14	7	2	5	16	15	16
Oviedo	14	5	5	4	15	13	15
Albacate	14	6	2	6	16	16	14
Osasuna	14	5	3	6	10	15	13
Real Sociedad	14	4	5	5	15	16	13
La Coruna	14	4	4	6	13	17	12
Logrones	13	5	2	6	12	21	12
Bilbao	14	4	4	6	12	22	12
Cadiz	14	4	2	8	10	15	10
Tenerife	14	3	4	7	16	21	10
Valladolid	14	3	3	8	12	21	9
Espanol	14	2	3	9	12	28	7
Mallorca	13	2	1	10	4	15	5

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	17	11	5	1	29	8	27
Mechelen	17	11	3	3	28	11	25
Club Brugge	17	9	6	2	34	15	24
Standard Liege	17	8	8	1	25	11	24
Ghent	17	8	4	5	30	27	20
Cercle Brugge	17	7	6	4	28	28	20
Antwerp	17	9	1	7	23	19	19
Lierse	17	6	5	6	23	26	17
Waregem	17	7	2	8	24	24	16
FC Liege	17	4	8	5	17	18	16
Ekeren	17	4	8	5	14	20	16
Lokeren	17	4	7	6	24	22	15
Beveren	17	4	6	7	21	22	14
Genk	17	4	4	9	13	21	12
Molenbeek	17	4	4	9	15	26	12
Kortrijk	17	3	6	8	17	34	12
Charleroi	17	1	7	9	10	23	9
Aalst	17	2	4	11	7	27	8

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	21	12	8	1	38	13	32
Monaco	22	12	5	5	33	19	29
Paris SG	22	8	11	3	24	16	27
Caen	22	11	5	6	30	24	27
Le Havre	22	8	10	4	17	14	26
Auxerre	22	8	8	6	31	19	24
Metz	22	10	4	8	32	24	24
Montpellier	22	7	10	5	26	21	24
Nantes	22	9	6	7	20	19	24
Lille	22	8	7	7	16	16	23
Toulouse	22	7	8	7	18	21	22
St Etienne	21	7	7	7	24	17	21
Toulon	22	9	2	11	29	33	20
Lens	22	3	14	5	13	17	20
Nimes	22	6	8	8	18	32	20
Rennes	22	5	7	10	17	27	17
Lyon	22	4	9	9	13	21	17
Cannes	22	5	6	11	22	30	16
Sochaux	22	4	7	11	20	31	15
Nancy	22	3	4	15	22	49	10

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	17	13	4	0	42	9	30
Petrolul	17	11	1	5	27	28	23
Steaua	15	9	3	3	24	11	21
Uni. Craiova	17	8	5	4	20	10	21
Electroputere	17	7	5	5	19	11	19
Otelul Galati	17	9	1	7	22	21	19
Gloria Bistrita	16	7	3	6	24	20	17
Poli Timisoara	17	7	3	7	22	22	17
F Constanta	16	7	2	7	14	12	16
Inter Sibiu	17	6	4	7	20	24	16
Rapid Buch.	17	7	2	8	17	21	16
Bacau	17	7	2	8	16	27	16
Brasov	17	5	4	8	25	30	14
Arges Pitesti	16	4	4	8	18	21	12
C. Hunedoara	17	4	3	10	20	30	11
Electromures	17	5	1	11	18	28	11
Sp. Studentesc	17	3	5	9	14	27	11
DU Braila	16	4	2	10	13	23	10

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	14	9	5	0	23	7	23
Juventus	14	9	3	2	17	7	21
Napoli	14	6	7	1	24	13	19
Lazio	14	4	8	2	19	15	16
Genoa	14	5	6	3	17	15	16
Parma	14	4	8	2	14	13	16
Inter	14	4	8	2	14	14	16
Foggia	14	5	5	4	21	17	15
Torino	14	4	7	3	10	7	15
Atalanta	14	5	5	4	13	11	15
Fiorentina	14	5	4	5	17	13	14
Roma	14	4	6	4	13	15	14
Sampdoria	14	4	4	6	16	14	12
Verona	14	5	2	7	11	20	12
Cagliari	14	3	4	7	10	18	10
Cremonese	14	2	4	8	9	18	8
Bari	14	0	5	9	8	21	5
Ascoli	14	1	3	20	7	25	5

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	14	11	3	0	30	12	36
Fenerbahce	14	11	1	2	33	15	34
Galatasaray	14	9	3	2	19	9	30
Trabzonspor	13	7	2	4	25	14	23
Aydinspor	14	6	5	3	16	17	23
Genclerbirligi	14	4	6	4	21	22	18
Sariyer	13	5	2	6	17	17	17
Konyaspor	14	4	4	6	20	18	16
Ankaragucu	14	3	7	4	17	17	16
Gaziantapsor	14	3	6	5	15	19	15
Sakirkoyspor	14	3	5	6	19	23	14
Bursaspor	14	3	5	6	15	20	14
Boluspor	14	3	4	7	15	19	13
Altay	14	3	3	8	13	23	12
Adanademirspor	14	2	6	6	14	27	12
Samsunspor	14	1	4	9	14	31	7

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	19	13	5	1	35	10	44
Leeds	20	12	7	1	35	14	32
Sheffield Wed	19	9	5	5	32	22	32
Man City	20	9	5	6	27	24	32
Aston Villa	20	9	3	8	28	25	30
Arsenal	18	8	5	5	35	24	29
Everton	20	8	5	7	30	24	29
Liverpool	18	7	8	3	20	14	29
Crystal Palace	18	8	4	6	30	36	28
Norwich	19	6	9	4	26	24	27
Nottm. Forest	19	8	2	9	33	30	26
Chelsea	20	6	7	7	26	30	25
Tottenham	17	7	3	7	25	23	24
Oldham	19	6	5	8	29	30	23
Wimbledon	19	6	5	8	24	25	23
Coventry	19	7	2	10	20	22	23
QPR	20	5	7	8	19	28	22
West Ham	19	4	7	8	19	27	19
Sheffield Utd	20	5	4	11	26	35	19
Notts County	19	5	3	11	20	30	18
Southampton	19	4	5	10	15	29	17
Luton Town	19	2	6	11	12	40	12

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MUM'S THE WORD!

BY JOHN **KELL**

ARSENAL'S new striker Ian Wright has revealed the secret of his success, the driving force behind his remarkable six-year rise from non-league football to the international stage.

His mentor and inspiration is not a former player or a former manager . . . but his mum Nester.

"My mum is my biggest fan, my biggest critic, my biggest everything," says Wright.

"She is my inspiration. She is the most important person in my life. Mum dominates my life and is the strength of my family. I owe it all to her. She's kept me on the straight and narrow."

Wright certainly needed all his mother's loving care as a teenager when he was struggling to make the grade as a professional footballer.

He began his career with Sunday morning side Ten-Em-Bee in the London and Kent Border League. In four seasons he scored a remarkable 250 league goals as the club won 12 trophies.

Ten-Em-Bee manager Errol Palmer knew Wright was too good for non-league Sunday football and began writing to local League clubs urging them to give Ian a trial.

"We wrote to Fulham, Charlton, Millwall, Orient, Luton, Watford and Crystal Palace telling them about him," says Palmer, "but none of them wanted Ian."

Palmer also tried, unsuccessfully, non-league Enfield and then Brighton. Wright went to Brighton for a trial, played well and was sure they would sign him. But they turned him down and at that stage he almost gave up.

"I can remember going home after being knocked back by Brighton," says Wright, "my mum was in tears. She hugged me and said 'many are called, but few are chosen'. All I wanted was a chance to prove what I could do, just one chance."

That chance came one Sunday morning when Ten-Em-Bee were playing in a non-league cup final. A Crystal Palace scout was in the small crowd that day — and Wright scored all four goals in a 4-1 victory.

But there was still no offer from Palace, or from any other League club. The only club who did contact him were Kent League club Greenwich Borough. They offered Wright £30 a match and he jumped at the chance.

"I didn't realise I was going to get paid as well. I was so thrilled I went straight home and gave the money to my mum."

Wright played only four games for Greenwich but did enough during that time to attract the scouts once again. This time Crystal Palace scout Peter Prentice offered Wright a trial.

Fearing rejection again, Wright didn't take the match against local non-league Kingstonian too seriously, but scored the winner in a 1-0 victory.

"Maybe the lack of pressure was the key," says Wright. He was then offered a three-month contract by manager Steve Coppell, who was still not entirely convinced that Wright would make it.

Scoring

Six weeks later, in August 1985, Wright was offered a one-year contract and his career had finally started in earnest. Wright scored nine goals in 32 games for Palace in his first season and has never looked back from there.

In 1989 Palace won promotion to Division One with Wright scoring 24 goals, including two in the promotion play-off final against Blackburn which clinched their place in the First Division.

A year later, Wright's goals helped Palace reach the FA Cup Final for the first time in their history. He missed the epic 4-3 semi-final victory against Liverpool when he fractured a leg twice in two months. But he returned ahead of schedule and went on as substitute in the final against Manchester United and scored twice to force a replay.

Wright won his first England cap in February 1991, partnering Gary Lineker in the attack against Cameroon at Wembley. He had a satisfactory match, almost getting on the scoresheet, and did enough to ensure he would be part of Graham Taylor's plans.

Last season Wright notched 15 League goals as Palace finished third — the club's highest ever finish.

Then in September, Arsenal manager George Graham decided that Wright was just the sort of dynamic striker he needed to inject some life into a lethargic-looking forward line.

Wright was duly signed in a £2.5million deal — making him the most expensive Arsenal player ever — and stepped into an attack which already contained internationals Alan Smith and Anders Limpar, the soon-to-be-capped Paul Merson, along with Englar under-21 star Kevin Campbell and th ever-reliable Perry Groves.

The move means Wright teamed u with his childhood pal David Rocastl who is enjoying a renaissance th season after two years in the wilderne caused by injuries and loss of form.

"I've known David since I was 10 says Wright, who is godfather Rocastle's son Ryan. "We lived on th same estate but we've never been c the same side since we kicked arour together in the park."

Wright scored on his Arsenal debut the 1-1 Rumbelows Cup draw Leicester. Three days later he scored hat-trick on his League debut Southampton in a rampant 4-0 victor

The goals continue to flow for Wrig who has now scored nine times in 1 games for the champions. But it has n all been plain sailing, and he ha recently been involved in controversi incidents.

The first, and potentially most seriou came in the 1-1 draw at Oldham. Wrig fought a running battle with Oldha defender Earl Barrett all through th match, getting himself booked an almost sent off.

Then, having scored the equaliser, h gave a V-sign to the Oldham fans an as the game ended, he is alleged t have spat at fans as he left the pitch.

The FA have charged him, and tean mates Seaman and Merson, wi misconduct which could result in fine suspension and possible banishme from the England squad.

Worse still, from Arsenal's viewpoin is that the club could be docke League points, as they were last seaso after a brawl at Manchester United.

Wright may escape seve punishment because it appears that h was spat on by Oldham fans first, an then retaliated.

It is all very odd behaviour for a play with a previously good disciplina record and his mother would certain not approve!

But Wright is clearly enjoying bein part of the Highbury set-up.

"I am so excited about being here. honestly think I'll score more goa because Arsenal play more through th middle and that suits me.

Wright must now recall his mother words after being rejected by Brighto with a wry smile.

With a place in Arsenal's first tea pretty well assured, a pay packet around £3,000 a week and his place the England squad reclaimed, la Wright has received his calling, and now definitely one of the chosen.

Roxburgh sets a record

NEVER can a match between two Eastern European countries have generated so much interest among Scottish football supporters!

Fans were clamouring for news of the game in Sofia between Bulgaria and Romania, because the result decided Scotland's fate with regard to participation in the European Championships.

When the news finally filtered through that the game had ended 1-1, thus ensuring that the Scots had won their qualifying group, an aura of relief and celebration descended.

Although Scotland have qualified for five successive World Cup tournaments, they consistently failed to get a place in the European Championships.

They established the basis for reasonably comfortable qualification with home wins over Romania and Switzerland and an eminently acceptable draw in Bulgaria.

As is generally the case with the Scottish team, however, they contrived to make things difficult for themselves, and relied on a variety of mathematical possibilities before being able to book tickets for Sweden.

Riding

Results went Scotland's way and their presence in Sweden later this year is largely attributable to the tenacity of national coach Andy Roxburgh (right), who has successfully ridden an often vitriolic tide of criticism to take a Scottish team to the European finals for the first time.

Roxburgh has rightly discarded the prima donnas who appeared to want to choose the games in which they would play, and his efficient, workmanlike side's collective attitude, commitment and team spirit more than compensate for the absence of flair and charisma.

They will travel to Sweden as underdogs but the loyal fans who will follow them will do so content in the knowledge that 100 per cent dedication to the cause is unconditionally guaranteed.

Critics of the 12-team Premier Division have been silenced this season as one of the most open and exciting championships for years has unfolded.

Several teams appear to be in with a chance of lifting the title and the fans are undoubtedly being given value for money.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**